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THANOS®: INFINITY ABYSS

JIM STARLIN

Spider-Man. Dr. Strange. Adam Warlock.
Pip the Troll. Captain Marvel.

Five classic costumed champions whose combined strength can move planets and change the course of time itself. What threat could be dire enough to bring these heroes together? Only the most feared villain in the entire cosmos: Thanos! For the vengeful Eternal seeks not only the death of his enemies — he seeks the eradication of life itself. If Thanos attains his goal, the entire universe will face complete annihilation. Following in the legendary tradition of Jim Starlin's acclaimed Infinity trilogy, this star-spanning epic features heroic adventures on a breathtaking cosmic scale — showcasing writer/artist Jim Starlin's wondrous imagination without boundaries or limits.

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Collecting *Infinity Abyss* #1-6,
written and illustrated by Jim Starlin.

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1 of 6

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DOOMSDAY

IS HERE!

THE INFINITY ABYSS!

LAMENTATIONS FROM THE EDGE.

WHERE?!

WHERE IS HE?

WHERE IS SHE?

THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME LEFT TO ME.

LEFT TO ALL THAT THERE IS, THEN...

MADNESS AND OBLIVION!

A WARLOCK OR MAGUS IS SAID TO BE A WISE MAN.

TRUE, AT TIMES I HAVE FELT I POSSESS MORE WISDOM THAN THOSE AROUND ME.

BUT NOT THIS DAY. CONFUSION REIGNS.

FOR I, ADAM WARLOCK, NOW STARE NUMBLY AT APPROACHING DOOM AND PART OF ME WELCOMES IT.

I STRUGGLE TO **RESIST** THE NEARLY OVERPOWERING URGE TO **LASH OUT** AT MY COMRADES.

CAN THEY NOT SEE HOW **FUTILE** AND **WRONG** THEIR **OPPOSITION** IS?

WHY DO THEY NOT EMBRACE THE **SIREN CALL** OF THE **VOID**?

THANOS WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS **NIHILISTIC SENTIMENT** BETTER THAN ANY.

IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT LESS THAN **12 SHORT HOURS** AGO, HE BECAME THE **FIRST VICTIM** OF THE **INSANITY** THAT THREATENS TO ENGULF US ALL.

THE **LURE** WAS A CERTAIN **TRANSMISSION SIGNATURE** EMANATING FROM A DISTANT STAR SYSTEM.

IT PROMISED A PRIZE THE **MAD TITAN** HAD LONG BEEN **SEARCHING** FOR SURREPTITIOUSLY.

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A MAD CALLING!

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THANOS OF TITAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THIS ACTUALITY'S TRULY UNIQUE BEINGS.

A SEEKER OF POWER AND LOVER OF LADY DEATH, HE DID MENACE THE UNIVERSE MANY A TIME.

ONCE EVEN, FOR A SHORT PERIOD, GAINING MASTERY OVER TIME, SPACE, REALITY, POWER, THE MIND AND THE SOUL WITH USE OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

BUT THIS WILY AND DARK SCHEMER HAS ALSO BEEN THE SAVIOR OF THE HEAVENS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

A CONTRA-DICTION WITH THE WILL OF IRON.

IT WAS RUMORED THAT HE RETIRED IN RECENT YEARS, TO A FIELD OF PURE RESEARCH.

A DUBIOUS CLAIM, I GRANT YOU.

YET IT WAS HIS QUEST FOR A SECRET SOMETHING THAT LED HIM TO THIS SPACE SECTOR ONLY TO FIND...

NOTHING?

I HAVE FOLLOWED A FALSE TRANS-MISSION.

ALL SYSTEMS SWITCH TO RED STANDARD.

THE TITAN IMMEDIATELY REALIZED HIS PERIL.

THE BAIT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY ONE FAMILIAR WITH THANOS' QUEST.

BUT THE TITAN'S GOAL WAS A SECRET HE HAD SHARED WITH NO BEING.

YET SOMEONE KNEW.

SOMEONE CLOSE.

SCANNERS INSTANTLY DETECTED THE SMALL OBJECT AS IT TELE-PORTED CLOSE TO THANOS' CRAFT...

IT LOOKED HARMLESS ENOUGH.

AS THANOS HAD INTENDED IT TO WHEN DESIGN-ING IT.

DETECTED: ONE SA:751 DETONATION IN 02 SECONDS

GRAVE DANGER IN A VERY SMALL PACKAGE.

A TRAP.

I HAVE BEEN BETRAYED.

BUT BY WHO?

WHO?!

A CATACLYSMIC ERUPTION OF THE ETHER, A RENT IN SPACE ITSELF, ANSWERED THANOS.

THE STARS ARE NOT EASILY IMPRESSED, EVEN BY THE FURY OF A TITAN.

THE ARTIFICIAL SINGULARITY INSTANTLY AND IRRESISTIBLY DREW EVERYTHING WITHIN A TWO LIGHT-YEARS RADIUS INTO ITS MERCILESS GRASP.

THE TITAN'S SPACE CRAFT DISINTEGRATED AROUND HIM IN A VAIN ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE.

OUR SECRET ENEMY'S FIRST MOVE WAS PERFECTLY EXECUTED.

WITHIN THIRTY SECONDS OF ITS CREATION...

...THE MINIATURE BLACK HOLE COLLAPSED BACK IN ON ITSELF.

LEAVING NO EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME THAT HAD BEEN COMMITTED...

...SAVE A SMALL DEBRIS FIELD...

NEARLY AN HOUR WOULD PASS BEFORE ANOTHER STUMBLED UPON THIS UNFOLDING DRAMA.

WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THE CEREAL SECTION.

NEXT IT'S ON TO CANNED GOODS, RYAN, AND THEN CONDIMENTS.

CHRIS, THERE'S A BAD SPILL IN DAIRY THAT NEEDS ATTENDING.

RIGHT ON IT, MR. SHIFRIN.

DON'T TAKE ALL DAY.

I NEED...

I...

I...

TOO COOL TO BE TRUE, DUDE!

RYAN, WHAT HAPPENED?!

WELL, THE BOSS SPROUTED TENTACLES AND DISAPPEARED INTO WHATEVER THAT THING IS.

WEIRD, HUH?

VERY. SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

REPORT IT TO SOMEONE, I GUESS.

YOU MEAN LIKE THE COPS?

THINK THAT'S SUCH A HOT IDEA?

OH, YEAH...

I GOT THAT POT BUST SIX MONTHS BACK.

AND ME WITH THAT SHOP-LIFTING THING ON MY RECORD.

THEY'LL THINK WE DID IT!

I GOT IT!

WHAT SAY WE FINISH THE SHIFT, PUNCH OUT AND PRETEND NOTHIN' HAPPENED?

WORKS FOR ME.

DOCTOR STRANGE IS THE UNDISPUTED *MASTER* OF THE *MYSTIC ARTS*, HIS VOCATION: UNRAVELING *OCCULT MYSTERIES*.

HE IS ALSO A *FOUNDING MEMBER* OF THE BIZARRE GROUP KNOWN AS *THE DEFENDERS*.

I HAVE ONLY BRIEFLY CROSSED HIS PATH, DURING OTHER *ADVENTURES* INTO THE *INFINITE*.

BUT I KNOW HIM TO BE A *BRAVE* AND *THINKING WARRIOR*.

A *LESSER MAN* WOULD HAVE *THOUGHT TWICE* BEFORE DELVING INTO SUCH DANGER-OUSLY *MURKY WATERS*.

MASTER, YOU HAVE RETURNED FROM YOUR *ASTRAL TRAVELS*.

WOULD YOU CARE FOR YOUR USUAL *TEA*?

NO AMENITIES, *WONG*.

THIS NIGHT MY *MYSTIC SENSES* LED ME TO THE OCCURRENCE OF *THREE IMPOSSIBLE EVENTS*.

I THEN WITNESSED THEM *ENSHRINED* WITHIN SEPARATE BLOCKS OF SEEMING *NOTHINGNESS*.

DARK FORCES ARE AT WORK THIS EVE.

FORCES I DO *NOT* FULLY *UNDER-STAND*.

FORCES THAT I FEAR *THREATEN* ALL *REALITY*.

I MYSELF WAS TO LEARN OF THIS DANGER BY A MORE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE.

I WAS IN RESIDENCE ON THE PLANET DEGAITOR IN THE HERCULEAN SPIRE.

AN UNWILLING GUEST OF THE CORPORATION FOR MENTAL STABILITY.

YES, IT WAS A SITUATION I NEEDED RESCUING FROM.

AND MY UNLIKELY SAVIOR WOULD BE **PIP the TROLL.**

NOW, PIP IS A SCOUNDREL AND ROGUE WILLING TO CHEAT MOST ANYONE OF THEIR LAST DIME.

BUT IF YOU'RE A FRIEND HE'D GO TO THE END OF THE GALAXY TO AID YOU.

FORTUNATELY, RADIATION FROM THE SPACE GEM THAT HE USED TO POSSESS STILL ALLOWS HIM TO TELE-PORT ANYWHERE HE CHOOSES.

SO HE ARRIVED ON DEGAITOR AS...

DOCTOR DeTROLL, AS YOU CAN SEE, OURS IS THE FINEST INSTITUTE OF ITS KIND IN THE SECTOR.

REAL CHARMING.

NOW, ABOUT MY PATIENT, DR. NILRATS.

IF HE IS INDEED THE MAN YOU SEEK, TWO YEARS AGO HE WAS BROUGHT IN BY THE SECURITY FORCE.

CAUSING TROUBLE, WAS HE?

SOUNDS LIKE ADAM.

THE PATIENT WAS HIGHLY *DISORIENTED* AND *UNCOMMUNICATIVE.*

HE BECAME *VIOLENT* WHEN *RESTRAINED*, AND INJURED A NUMBER OF PATROL-MEN.

HOW'D HE GET ALONG WITH *YOU?*

I ONLY HAD ONE CHANCE TO *INTERVEIW* HIM.

AND IT ENDED *BADLY.*

HOW SO?

YOU'LL SEE ON THIS *ARCHIVE VID.*

THEN PERHAPS *YOU* CAN *EXPLAIN* WHAT HAPPENED.

I WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH A *RELATIONSHIP* WITH THE PATIENT.

ADAM'S *NOT BIG* ON RELATION-SHIPS.

YOUR NAME PLEASE... YOU ARE?

A *FACET* OF AN *INCOM-PREHENSIBLE DESIGN.*

ANY RELA-TIVES WE SHOULD CONTACT?

I WAS *FATHERED* BY *THREE MANIACS!*

INTERESTING. AND YOUR *MOTHER?*

SCIENCE. ABUSED AND PERVERTED.

OKAY. *WHERE* ARE YOU FROM?

A PLACE OF *LOST DREAMS* AND *CHAOS.*

MY JOURNEY?

LONG, WITH FEW *REWARDS.*

PAIN WITHOUT *TIME.*

ABSTRACTION WITHOUT *CONTEXT.*

JUST... TOO MUCH...

NO MORE...

AND ADAM THEN DISAPPEARED INTO HIS LI'L *COCOON*, RIGHT?

I SEE YOU ARE INDEED *FAMILIAR* WITH *PATIENT #6457987*.

CAN I SEE HIM?

OF COURSE. AND ON THE WAY TO HIS *WARD*...

...PERHAPS YOU COULD FILL ME IN ON HIS *PERSONAL HISTORY*.

SURE. ADAM WAS SLAPPED TOGETHER TO BE THE *NEXT STEP* IN *HUMAN EVOLUTION*.

BUT HE TOOK *BIGGER STEPS* THAN HIS CREATORS ANTICIPATED.

THEN HIS *FATHERS*...

NO SPITTING

NO LITTERING

WERE YOUR TYPICAL *MAD SCIENTISTS*, WHO SOON LEARNED THEIR BOY WAS CONNECTED TO SOME MYSTERIOUS *SOURCE OF POWER*.

DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS FOLLOWED.

WHAT *KIND* OF POWER?

SOMETHING *COSMIC*.

SO ADAM TOOK OFF INTO *SPACE* TO FIND HIS *OWN WAY*.

THE GUY'S HAD SOME *INTER-ESTING TIMES*.

ON ONE WORLD HE BECAME A *MARTYRED REDEEMER*.

LATER, HE OVERTHREW A *GALACTIC CHURCH*, KILLED *HIMSELF*, AND EVENTUALLY BECAME THE *SUPREME BEING* OF THIS REALITY.

IT DIDN'T LAST.

REALLY?

ARE YOU ON ANY *MEDICATION*, DR. DeTROLL?

I KNOW IT SOUNDS *CRAZY*, BUT IT'S *TRUE*.

HE ALSO *DIED* AND CAME *BACK* TO *LIFE* A FEW TIMES.

THEN *WHAT* COULD'VE BROUGHT HIM TO HIS CURRENT *SORRY STATE*?

THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO *FIND OUT*, DOC.

STAY IN LINE

A STORAGE ROOM?

WE HAD BUDGET CUTS.

STORAGE

PLUS, WHENEVER WE SOUGHT TO AID YOUR FRIEND...

YOUR DIAGNOSTIC GIZMOS GOT FRIED.

EXACTLY.

PATIENT #6457987 COULD YET PROVE TO BE A MOST FASCINATING CASE.

A REAL CAREER MAKER, YOU THINK?

WELL, THERE WILL BE PAPERS TO WRITE ON THE SUBJECT.

AND THE LECTURE CIRCUIT...

HEY, ADAM.

NEW DESIGN ON THE COCOON, I SEE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO EMERGE AS THIS TIME?

EMERGE?

HE'S GOING TO COME OUT OF THAT THING?

ALWAYS HAS BEFORE.

THEN WE MUST HURRY!

WE SHOULD RETURN HIM TO GENERAL POPULATION AND CALL A NEWS CONFERENCE.

SURE.

DO THAT.

THIS IS MY TICKET OUT OF--

WHAT ?!?

WHERE'D THEY GO?

MY PATIENT!

MY CAREER!

WHERE DID WE AND DR. NILRATS' DREAMS GO?

LIGHT YEARS AWAY, TO A SPACE CRAFT WAY BEYOND PIP'S MEANS.

THE PACKAGE IS DELIVERED AND ON THE EXAMINING TABLE.

WERE THERE ANY DIFFI-CULTIES?

NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.

THE DOC TRIED TO GET TOUGH WITH ME.

THEN THERE WERE THOSE SIX SECURITY GUARDS.

NO, MAKE THAT EIGHT.

THEY NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN ME!

I WAS--

HEY!!

THAT STOGIE COST ME GOOD MONEY!

SEVERE PSYCHIC TRAUMA.

CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT EMANATING FROM THE COCOON?

NO, EMPATHY'S NOT MY THING, THANOS.

AND I NEVER HEARD ABOUT YOU BEING BIG IN THAT DEPARTMENT.

YOU BECOME SOME KIND OF NEW AGE HEALER IN YOUR OLD AGE?

NO, MY TRYING TO REVIVE WARLOCK WOULD PROVE FRUITLESS.

BUT WE BOTH KNOW ONE WHO SPECIALIZES IN THE INTRICATE WORKINGS OF THE MIND.

ARRANGE-MENTS MUST BE MADE TO SECURE HER ASSISTANCE.

LIKE HIS FATHER, THE CURRENT **CAPTAIN MARVEL** POSSESSES **NEGA-BANDS** WHICH ALLOW HIM TO TAP INTO **POWERS COSMIC** AND SOAR AMIDST THE **STARS.**

AS THE ORIGINAL DID, THIS **KREE WARRIOR** SHARES AN EXISTENCE WITH THE EARTHLING **RICK JONES.**

IT IS AN **UNEASY ALLIANCE** AND **BALANCE.**

JONES TAKES **GENIS' PLACE** IN SOMETHING CALLED THE **MICROVERSE** WHENEVER THE POWER OF **CAPTAIN MARVEL** IS NEEDED IN THIS REALITY.

SOMEHOW THEY MANAGE.

THIS REALLY **SUCKS BIG TIME,** MARV.

WHAT'S OUT HERE THAT'S **SO IMPORTANT** THAT WE HAD TO SCUTTLE A **ROMANTIC DINNER** WITH **MARLO?**

RICK, AS YOU RECALL I HAVE THIS **KNACK** WE CALL MY **COSMIC SENSES?**

WELL, THEY'RE **SCREAMING** THAT SOMETHING **MONUMENTAL** IS TAKING PLACE OUT HERE **BIGTIME!**

SO GET **OFF** MY **BACK!**

I'M WAITING FOR THE INVADING ALIEN ARMADA, BUT ALL I SEE ARE CHUNKS OF ROCK.

NOT IMPRESSED, MARY.

THEN LOOK DEEPER INTO THE ASTEROID BELT.

AND BE IMPRESSED.

OKAY, YOU GOT ME. WHAT IS IT?

NOTHING.

NO, REALLY.

RICK, MY COSMIC SENSES TELL ME THAT FLOATING CUBE CONSISTS OF ABSOLUTE NOTHING-NESS.

IF IT'S NOTHING THEN HOW'S IT HOLDING TOGETHER?

A GOOD QUESTION.

BUT AT THE MOMENT I'M MORE INTERESTED IN WHO OR WHAT CREATED IT.

AND WHY?

THEY SAY GAMORA IS THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN THE UNIVERSE.

THIS MAY WELL BE TRUE SEEING AS HOW SHE GREW UP AS THANOS' WARD.

BUT UPON REACHING MATURITY, GAMORA AND THE TITAN PARTED WAYS, AND FOR YEARS SHE MADE HER WAY AS A GALACTIC MERCENARY AND FREE-BOOTER.

LATER, SHE JOINED PIP, MYSELF AND THE OTHERS IN THE INFINITY WATCH, WHERE SOMETHING GREW BETWEEN HER AND ME.

BUT, TO MY REGRET, I NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO NURTURE THAT CONNECTION AND IT ENDED.

SHE ALLOWED WANDERLUST TO LIGHT HER WAY, UNTIL A FEW SHORT HOURS AGO.

BALIGIEST IS YOUR TYPICAL SEEDY SPACEPORT, A PLACE TO REFUEL AND MAYBE HUNT UP A LITTLE EMPLOYMENT OR ENTERTAINMENT.

GAMORA WAS CONSIDERING THE LATTER.

TOO LONG ALONE IN THE ETHER.

FORTUNATELY, ALONG WITH INCREDIBLE FIGHTING SKILLS AND STRUCTURAL ENHANCEMENT, THE LADY COMES EQUIPPED WITH VERY ACUTE HEARING.

715-B357

THEY SAY THE MASTER IS SPEAKING AT THE NIETZSCHE ARENA TONIGHT!

THANOS HIMSELF!

WE MUST GET TICKETS!

THEY'RE WEARING THE ZERO INSIGNIAS OF THE NIHILIST SECT!

A QUASI-RELIGIOUS GROUP THANOS FOUNDED.

I THOUGHT HE'D DUMPED THOSE LOSERS LONG AGO.

WHAT'S EVEN MORE CURIOUS IS THAT I HEARD TELL THANOS WAS KILLED BATTLING THOR NOT LONG AGO.

SO MUCH FOR THE RELIABILITY OF THE RUMOR MILL.

I WONDER WHAT THE BIG GUY'S BEEN UP TO.

OBVIOUSLY GATHERING CONVERTS TO THE MAD PHILOSOPHY HE USED TO ESPOUSE.

WHAT GOES ON HERE?

WELCOME

NIHILISTS

THANOS GAVE UP ON NIHILISM WHEN IT FAILED TO WIN LADY DEATH'S LOVE FOR HIM.

SO WHY IS HE REVIVING THE CULT NOW?

THANOS' EVERY MOVE IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN PURPOSE.

WHEN LAST WE SPOKE HE HAD FORSAKEN UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION OR CONQUEST.

BUT PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS CHANGE.

THINK I'LL STICK AROUND UNTIL I SEE WHAT'S SHAKING HERE.

IT'S HIM!

GREETINGS, MY CHILDREN OF THE VOID!

I BRING YOU WORD OF COMING OBLIVION!

THANOS?!

IT CAN'T BE!

HE LOOKS LIKE A BAD PARODY OF IRON MAN.

WHY WOULD HE WEAR AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT?!

UNLESS HE WAS TERRIBLY INJURED IN HIS BATTLE WITH THOR...

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS PURE NOTHINGNESS.

THEN THE HORRIFIC ACCIDENT OF LIFE OCCURRED AND CHAOS BEGAN ITS REIGN.

THE BALANCE MUST BE RESTORED!

EVEN THOUGH AMPLIFIED THE VOICE IS RIGHT.

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO RIGHT THE WRONG!

ALL LIFE MUST END!

IT IS HIM.

THE TRANQUILITY OF OBLIVION CAN BE ATTAINED... IF YOU BELIEVE!

IT WILL REQUIRE GREAT EFFORT!

AND SACRI-FICE!

OR IS IT?

BUT WE ARE NIHILISTS AND LIVE FOR SACRIFICE!

CRAZY TALK.

WERE WE NOT BORN TO END ALL LIFE?!

I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.

IT WAS THIS DEATH WISH NONSENSE THAT DROVE ME FROM THANOS YEARS AGO.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO--

IT--IT CANNOT BE--

HE SEES ME...

LISTEN, MY FOLLOWERS!

THE GREEN WOMAN IN SECTION C3--

KILL HER!

SUDDENLY IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT IS REALLY THANOS OR NOT.

I SWITCH OVER TO SURVIVAL MODE.

IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS YOU ALWAYS TAKE OUT THE BIG ONES FIRST.

DESTROY HER!

THEN QUICKLY GET YOUR WEAPONS INTO PLAY.

THAT WAY THE OTHERS TRIP OVER THEM, TRYING TO REACH YOU.

BEDLAM AND MOVEMENT KEEP YOU FROM BEING AN EASY TARGET.

BUT PRESENTLY THAT'S NOT A BIG CONCERN.

AS WARRIORS THESE NIHILISTS MAKE FOR GOOD CANNON FODDER.

WHAT A SURPRISE.

THE REAL THANOS WOULD KNOW THESE CLOWNS COULDN'T POSSIBLY TAKE ME DOWN.

UNLESS THIS IS SOME KIND OF TEST.

IS HE OR ISN'T HE?!

INCOMPETENT FOOLS!

I SENSE HIS TAPPING INTO THE STADIUM'S POWER GRID.

THE STOLEN ENERGY BUILDS WITHIN HIM TO STAGGERING LEVELS AND IS THEN RELEASED.

IT LEAPS FORTH AS FIERY DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

ONLY LUCK AND A MAD LEAP SAVE ME.

THE MASTER GRANTS US OBLIVION!!

AND I COME TO A RATHER DISTURBING CONCLUSION.

MY ONLY HOPE FOR STAYING ALIVE IS TAKING THE LOW ROAD.

I'M NO MATCH FOR WHOEVER THAT CREEP IS.

HAVE TO REACH THE BLEACHER SECTION.

SEND ME TO THE VOID, MASTER!

NO, ME!

HUH?!

WHAT WAS THAT?

IF THAT'S THE REAL THING HE WON'T STOP UNTIL HE NAILS ME.

TIME TO BEAT FEET, GAL.

RIGHT OFF THIS PLANET.

AND OUT OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM.

SPACEPO

IN FACT A FEW DOZEN LIGHT YEARS BETWEEN US WOULDN'T HURT.

BUT THEN WHAT?

FOR THANOS TO WANT TO TAKE ME OUT MUST MEAN HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ESPECIALLY NASTY.

SOMETHING THAT MIGHT EASILY PROVE A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

I NEED SOME FAST ANSWERS TO SOME HARD QUESTIONS.

AND I THINK I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO GET THEM.

MOVE IT, YOU GUYS! WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!

RELAX, VINNIE! THE ALARM'S OFF LINE!

YEAH, WHAT WE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT?

SPIDER-MAN

A.K.A. PETER PARKER WAS THE ANSWER TO THAT PARTICULAR QUERY.

APPARENTLY, YEARS AGO PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER AND GIVEN ALL THE STRENGTH AND ABILITIES OF A 150-POUND ARACHNID.

THIS ACCIDENT ALSO GRANTED HIM A SIXTH SENSE WHICH WARNS HIM OF DANGER.

I KNOW IT SOUNDS RATHER ABSURD, BUT I HAVE FOUGHT AT SPIDER-MAN'S SIDE, AND KNOW HIM TO BE A TRUE WARRIOR, EVEN IF HIS OFF-WORLD EXPERIENCE IS RATHER LIMITED.

SHAME ON YOU BOZOS, ROBBING A FUR STORAGE!

LEAVING A BUNCH OF RICH OLD LADIES TO FREEZE THEIR BUTTS OFF THIS WINTER!

EVENING, MS. 911.

COULD YOU SEND A PATROL CAR AROUND TO PICK UP FOUR BURGLARS AT THE OGUST FUR DEPOT ON LEX.

THEY'LL BE HANGING FROM THE CEILING IN A WEB SNARE.

WHO'S THIS CALLING?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

Whoa!

IT'S NEVER KICKED IN THIS STRONG BEFORE.

WHAT THE--?

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SOUND-ING OFF AT FULL VOLUME!

SOME-WHERE TO THE NORTH OF HERE.

SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY BIG MUST BE GOING DOWN.

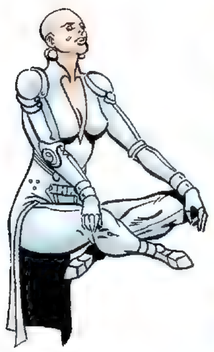
MOON DRAGON, BORN HEATHER DOUGLAS OF EARTH, WAS RAISED ON SATURN'S MOON, TITAN.

THERE SHE LEARNED TO DEVELOP HER TELEPATHIC AND TELE-KINETIC ABILITIES, IF NOT ANY SENSE OF HUMILITY.

HER ARROGANT NATURE HAS MORE THAN ONCE GOTTEN HER INTO SERIOUS DIFFI-CULTIES.

ONCE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENDERS AND LATER OF THE INFINITY WATCH, SHE HAS ALSO BEEN AN AVENGER, BUT NOT ONE IN THE BEST STANDING.

SO...



I STUMBLED UPON THIS AIM ENCLAVE QUITE BY ACCIDENT, CAPTAIN...

I'M AWARE THE GROUP IS ON YOUR TARGET LIST.

SO I'D LIKE TO INVITE THE AVENGERS OUT WEST TO...

NOT VERY TOUGH, ARE THEY?

NOT WHEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

MOON-DRAGON! BEHIND YOU!

I'M WELL AWARE OF HIM, TRI-ATHLON.

NOT HIM.

IT.

WHAT?

IT'S SOME KIND OF TELE-PORTATIONAL GATEWAY.

AND IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MOONY KNEW IT WAS GOING TO GRAB HER.

KIDNAPPING IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY.

KIDNAPPED BY WHO?

IN THE PAST I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING UNFEELING AND RUDE.

SO DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY WHEN I ASK...

...THE LAST I HEARD OF YOU, WEREN'T YOU DEAD?

NO, JUST A LITTLE HUNG OVER.

AND KEEPING BETTER COMPANY ALSO.

REPTILES AS I RECALL.

I BELIEVE OUR GUEST WAS ADDRESSING ME.

AIN'T SHE A CHARMER.

QUIET, TOAD.

IF THIS IS ABOUT *QUOI*...

HEAR HIM OUT, TOOTS.

ANCIENT HISTORY. I HAVE NEW AND MORE *PRESSING* CONCERNS, MATTERS OF *DIRE* CONSEQUENCE TO THE UNIVERSE.

YOU'LL FIND IT *WORTH* YOUR WHILE.

A FRIEND OF YOURS IS IN NEED.

I TAKE IT YOU *RECOGNIZE* HIM.

ADAM WARLOCK IN HIS PUPA STATE.

A CONDITION HE'S BEEN IN FOR THE LAST *TWO YEARS.*

ME AND *MAN MOUNTAIN* FOUND HIM LIKE THIS IN AN *ASYLUM.*

WHY..?

BRING YOU INTO THIS MATTER?

BECAUSE I *CANNOT* ASCERTAIN THE NATURE OR *HEAL* THE PSYCHIC TRAUMA WARLOCK SUFFERS FROM.

ONLY YOU CAN STIR HIM FROM HIS *TROUBLED* SLEEP.

I'M NOT SURE THAT'S SUCH A *GOOD* IDEA.

ADAM RETREATS TO THE COCOON TO *HEAL* AND *TRANSFORM.*

INTER-RUPTING THIS PROCESS MIGHT PROVE DETRI-MENTAL.

PERHAPS EVEN *FATAL.*

IT IS A *RISK* WE *MUST CHANCE.*

FOR MY STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT *WARLOCK* IS INVOLVED IN AN *EVENT* OF *GALACTIC IMPORTANCE.*

IN WAYS EVEN I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, YOUR FRIEND ONCE AGAIN PLAYS A *KEY ROLE* IN A *COSMIC DRAMA.*

THE *ENTIRE UNIVERSE* NOW TEETERS ON THE *EDGE* OF THE *ABYSS.*

UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION USED TO BE YOUR GOAL.

MORE ANCIENT HISTORY, AS YOU WELL KNOW.

THIS IS MY REALITY AND I PROTECT WHAT IS MINE.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

SO I STUDY REALMS FEW DARE VENTURE INTO.

RECENTLY, I DISCOVERED THIS.

OKAY, YOU PLAY GAMES WHOSE RULES I CAN ONLY GUESS AT.

WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?

THE GRAVEST OF PERILS.

SO GRAVE, THAT I AM FORCED TO SEEK YOUR TRUST.

I AGREE TO LOWER MY PSYCHIC DEFENSES, TO ALLOW YOU FREE ACCESS TO ALL MY THOUGHTS.

ONLY THUS MAY YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THIS DANGER.

TERRIFIC.

LAST TIME I PEERED INTO THAT BLACK PIT YOU CALL A MIND...

...I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT FOR A WEEK.

WHICH IS WHY I SUGGEST YOU REVIVE WARLOCK BEFORE LINKING PSYCHES WITH ME.

HIS PRESENCE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

CONSIDER THE MATTER WHILE I TEND TO OTHER DUTIES.

SUCH AS?

TECHNICAL MATTERS BEYOND YOUR CURRENT GRASP.

AND PIP CALLED ME A CHARMER.

I APOLOGIZE. I DID NOT MEAN TO OFFEND.

I NEED YOUR TRUST.

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

TRUST.

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THAT, DOES IT?

...I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU.

A COMMODITY YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT GIVING, AND THANOS IS LOUSY AT ELICITING.

YOU CAN NEVER TELL IF THE BIG GUY IS ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS OR NOT.

BUT WHATEVER HE'S UP TO, I FIGURE WITH ADAM AT OUR SIDE, WE'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT.

I KNEW THAT CRETIN'S PRESENCE WOULD PROVE USEFUL.

DON'T LET THIS GO TO YOUR HEAD, PIP...

BUT FOR ONCE...

OPEN.

I GREET YOU, MY BROTHERS.

MOONDRAGON WILL COOPERATE WITH US.

ADAM WARLOCK WILL SOON AWAKEN.

ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.

OMEGA WILL BE PLEASED.

BUT IF THE WOMAN GETS OUT OF LINE, X, I WILL GLADLY--

DO NOTHING, WARRIOR.

YOU'LL GET TO KILL SOON ENOUGH.

MYSTIC, HOW GOES YOUR CALCULATIONS?

CAN YOU YET PREDICT ANYTHING ABOUT ADAM WARLOCK'S NEXT INCARNATION?

NO, I'M AFRAID INTELLIGENCE ON WARLOCK CANNOT BE GAINED THROUGH MAGICAL MEANS.

HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART, BUT APART FROM THIS REALITY.

THE ULTIMATE OUTSIDER.

I THINK WE SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT THE ORIGINAL'S WARD, GAMORA.

SHE IS NO THREAT TO US, ARMOUR.

I SAY WE SHOULD HUNT HER DOWN!

I SHOULD CRUSH HER!

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHY YOU ARE NOT LEADING THIS ENDEAVOR, WARRIOR.

THE KEY TO OBLIVION IS WITHIN OUR GRASP.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SPLIT OUR FORCES.

EVERY-THING WE PLANNED IS COMING TO PASS.

FACE IT, MY BROTHERS, DOOMS-DAY IS UPON US!!

TIME DRAWS SO SHORT.

THE FORCES OF DARK-NESS GROW SO STRONG.

HAVE I FAILED ?!

IF I HAVE, THEN ALL THE UNI-VERSE ...

...WILL PAY FOR MY SHORTCOMINGS.

TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL PG

THANOS: INFINITY ABYSS™

2 of 6

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MARVEL

> THANOS

> WARLOCK

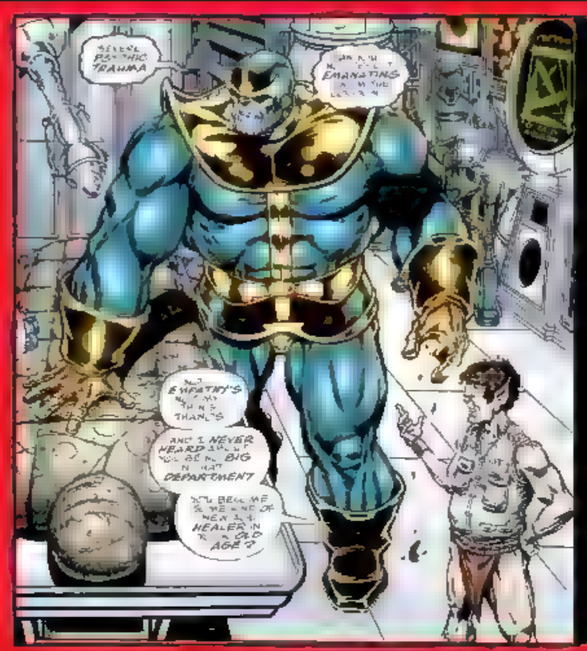
> GAMORA

> MOONDRAGON

> PIP

> ???

>PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY ABYSS...



Thanos of Titan, mad worshipper of Mistress Death, rescued his cocoon-encased arch-nemesis Adam Warlock from an intergalactic asylum, convinced that only Warlock can unravel a universe-threatening enigma. Unbeknownst to anyone, this is not the real Thanos, but instead a mysterious doppelganger.

After feeling a cosmic disturbance, Captain Marvel, an intergalactic hero bonded to Earthman Rick Jones, also became involved--his cosmic senses leading him into the far reaches of space to a large cube of "Nothingness." Meanwhile, Spider-Man and Dr. Strange, Earth's Sorcerer Supreme, have also begun to investigate strange goings on.

The mercenary Gamora, former ward of Thanos, happened upon a nihilist rally led by another counterpart of the mad Titan. During his speech, "Thanos" recognized Gamora in the crowd and ordered his thousands of followers to kill her. She narrowly escaped, and now searches for answers about her former master's motivations.

Moondragon, a Titan-raised telepath, was kidnapped by another of the Thanos doubles and charged with the task of awakening Adam Warlock from his cocoon state. Despite Moondragon's warnings that the process could damage Warlock, Thanos insisted that she try.

Meanwhile, a mysterious figure watches from the depths of oblivion, awaiting the end of all that is...

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MEANWHILE, DR. STRANGE'S OCCULT INVESTIGATION HAD LED HIM TO ALTERNATIVE ACTUALITIES.

THESE MYSTERIOUS BLOCKS OF NOTHINGNESS ARE APPEARING EVEN WITHIN THE MYSTIC REALMS.

YET I STILL HAVE NO CLUE AS TO THEIR ORIGIN OR WHAT THEY PORTEND.

BUT DEEP IN MY SOUL I SENSE THESE CUBES REPRESENT A DIRE THREAT TO ALL REALITY.

WITH A BLINDING FLASH, MY SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED.

I WELCOME YOU, MY FELLOW DEFENDERS.

SO, STRANGE, YOU'VE STUMBLED UPON *ANOTHER* DANGER TO THE *UNIVERSE.*

AND THE BRUTISH *HULK*, *SILVER SURFER* AND MYSELF HAVE YET AGAIN BEEN *UNCEREMONIOUSLY SUMMONED.*

SO WORKS *YANDROTH'S CURSE.*

BUT THE *EXACT NATURE* OF THIS *THREAT* IS YET TO BE DETERMINED, *NAMOR.*

ALL I'VE LEARNED SO FAR IS--

EYES OF OSHTUR!!

PARANOIDS and NOODLESTRS

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WRITER/PENCILS	INKER	LETTERS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE & HEROIC AGE COLORS		
MARC SUMERAK	TOM BREVOORT	JOE QUESADA
ASST. EDITOR	EDITOR	CHIEF

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?!

LET HULK GO!!

CURSE THE FATES!

BEING DRAWN TOGETHER!

MERGING!!

FOR ONCE I ACTUALLY DESIRED YOUR QUARRELSOME PRESENCE!

NO!

THE DEFENDERS ARE NOW TRAPPED WITHIN ONE OF THOSE BLOCKS OF NOTHING-NESS!

AND I'VE NO MEANS OF FREEING THEM!

BUT YANDROTH'S CURSE ONLY BRINGS THE DEFENDERS TOGETHER WHEN THE PERIL TO THE UNIVERSE IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY SINGLE MEMBER CAN HANDLE.

SO WHAT COURSE OF ACTION DO YOU NOW PURSUE, STRANGE...?

AS THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS PONDERED THAT DILEMMA...

MOONDRAGON AND PIP WERE BEING DECEIVED BY AN IMITATION MAD TITAN.

THE TIME HAS COME TO STIR ADAM WARLOCK FROM HIS PUPA SLUMBER.

RISE AND SHINE, OL' BOY.

QUIET! THIS REQUIRES MY TOTAL CONCENTRATION.

EVEN WHILE UNCONSCIOUS WARLOCK'S PSYCHIC DEFENSES ARE...

...INTENSE.

LINKING MENTALLY WITH HIM IS NO EASY MATTER.

BUT I FEEL CONTACT NEARING...

WE ARE MERGING AS ONE!

YET THERE IS RESISTANCE!

BUT NOTHING I CANNOT OVERCOME!

I'M BREAKING THROUGH!

DIRECTLY INTO ADAM'S *MEMORY CENTER*, AS PLANNED.

FOR *THIS* IS WHERE I WOULD MOST LIKELY *FIND* THAT WHICH *TROUBLES* HIM.

HIS *ENTIRE LIFE* DANCES BEFORE ME.

AND UNLESS I'M GRAVELY MISTAKEN, I HAVE ALSO LOCATED THE *INNER CHILD*.

BROODING ATOP A *DARK* AND *DISTURB-ING* REMEM-BRANCE.

ADAM.
GO AWAY, MOON-DRAGON.
I'VE COME TO HELP.
I NEED NO AID.
I REQUIRE ONLY PEACE AND SOLI-TUDE.
I REALIZE NOW THAT IS ALL I EVER TRULY CRAVED.
YOU'VE BEEN PSYCHICALLY INJURED.
MANY TIMES.
LET ME HELP.
NO ONE CAN HELP.
AS YOUR FRIEND, I CAN'T LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, HEATHER.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
BUT HARM.
WELL, WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT.
ARRGH!
I WARNED YOU!
NO! DON'T!

NOW GET OUT!

LEAVE ME ALONE!

NO!

WELL, MOONIE, LOOKS LIKE YOUR PART IN THIS OPERATION IS COMPLETE.

PISSED HIM OFF, DIDN'T YOU?

... CAN HELP...

TROLL, YOU AND THE WOMAN LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

I WILL HANDLE THIS!

YOU GOT IT!

MOVE!!

LEARNED WAY BACK WHEN ADAM GETS RILED...

...YOU NEED A FIREPROOF HIDE TO DEAL WITH HIM!

THANOS!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE INVOLVED!

AND YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO DISTURB ME NEEDLESSLY!

THERE IS NEED, ADAM WARLOCK!

THERE IS A DIRE THREAT TO ALL REALITY ONLY YOU CAN AVERT!

WHAT DANGER EXISTS THAT YOU, TITAN, CANNOT HANDLE WITHOUT ANYONE'S AID?

A PERIL I PERCEIVE, BUT CANNOT DEFINE!

THEN DEFINE WITHOUT MY INPUT!!

I CANNOT ASSIST YOU!

YOU HAVE SECRET KNOWLEDGE, WARLOCK!

I HAVE NOTHING BUT PAIN AND ANGER!

NO!

I BELIEVE YOU POSSESS INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN!

I HAVE FORGOTTEN NOTHING!

THEN TELL ME HOW YOU CAME TO BE IN THAT DEGATORIAN ASYLUM?

ASYLUM!!

YES... I WAS...

I DON'T... REMEMBER!

WHAT WAS THE LAST THING THAT YOU DO REMEMBER?

I WAS BACK ON EARTH.!

AT THE RUINS OF THE INFINITY WATCH'S CASTLE ON MONSTER ISLAND!

A VOICE SPOKE TO ME.

WHOSE VOICE?

AN ALIEN VOICE...

WHOSE VOICE?!

A NAME!

YES...

I... I KNOW THIS...

ATLEZ.

WHO'S ATLEZ?!

SOMEONE IN TERRIBLE NEED.

DESPERATE.

CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?

I AGREED TO HELP HIM DO SOME-THING...

I TRAVELED A LONG JOURNEY...

AND THERE WAS DARKNESS.

BUT THE DETAILS AREN'T THERE...

THERE IS A GAP IN MY MEMORY!

HOW?!

COSMIC TRAUMA.

AND AS I CONTEMPLATED THANOS'S RIDICULOUSLY CRYPTIC DIAGNOSIS, SPIDER-MAN CONTINUED ON HIS TREK, LEAVING FAR BEHIND FAMILIAR CONCRETE CANYONS.

HIS SPIDER-SENSE GUIDED HIM DEEP INTO UPSTATE NEW YORK.

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS AS FAR AS CONRAIL'S TAKING ME.

WHATEVER IT IS I'M HEADING TO IS NOW OFF TO THE WEST.

ALL ASHORE THAT'S GOING ASHORE!

I KNOW, I KNOW THAT'S BOATS, NOT TRAINS.

BUT ALL ABOARD JUST DIDN'T WORK HERE.

NO MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, SO IT LOOKS LIKE I DO MY TARZAN THING!

SURE HOPE I'M NOT BEING LED TO SOME ELEPHANT GRAVEYARD--!

AS CHANCE WOULD HAVE IT, *OTHER TRAVELERS*, AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, WERE ARRIVING AT THEIR *DESTINATION*.

OUR *INSTRUMENTATION* MUST BE MALFUNC-TIONING.

CAPTAIN, *COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS* SAY ALL SYSTEMS ARE OPER-ATING AT *PEAK EFFICIENCY*.

AND THEY CLAIM A *STELLAR SINGULARITY* HAS RECENTLY *OCCURRED* AT THIS LOCATION.

PREPOS-TEROUS!

BLACK HOLES DO NOT JUST APPEAR AND THEN *DISAPPEAR* WITHIN A FEW HOURS TIME!

WELL, SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR DID TAKE PLACE, ACCORDING TO *OUR SCANNERS*.

AND THE *SKRULL HIGH COUNCIL* SENT US TO INVESTIGATE.

YOUR ORDERS, CAPTAIN?

RUN THE *USUAL SCANS* AND *TESTS*.

I'LL PAD THE *REPORT*, AND WE'LL LOOK *OUR USUAL COMPETENT SELVES*.

BUT REALLY...

WHAT A *WASTE* OF *TIME*.

AND REMEMBER THAT *ASTEROID BELT* WHERE *CAPTAIN MARVEL* AND HIS FRIEND AND *OTHER SELF*, *RICK JONES*, FOUND THEIR *OWN BLOCK OF NOTHINGNESS*?

GENIS, THOSE RAYS SHOOTING FROM THAT THING?

SOMETHING MY COSMIC SENSES JUST DETECTED.

IT'S AN EYE-SQUINTING THING!

THIS NEW SPELL REVEALS THAT ONE TRAIL LEADS TO YET ANOTHER CUBE.

WHILE THE SECOND VEERS BACK TO MY OWN ACTU-ALITY.

PROBABLY DEAD ENDS.

BUT THIS LAST GLOWING AVENUE CUTS DEEPER INTO THE MYSTIC REALMS.

SO IT'S GOING DEEPER INTO SPACE OR ANOTHER DIMENSION...

GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES WHICH ONE I CHOOSE.

OKAY, NEXT STOP EARTH!

THIS IS THE PATH DR. STRANGE SHALL FOLLOW.

WHAT OTHER CHOICE HAVE I?

OR FOLLOWING THE TRAIL THAT LEADS BACK HOME.

IT APPEARS THIS WILL BE A JOURNEY THROUGH *MULTIPLE PLANES OF EXISTENCE.*

HEADING TOWARD THE *OUTER EDGES OF REALITY.*

AND BACK ON THE *FAUX-THANOS'S* SPACECRAFT, HIS BROTHERS WERE MAKING *SIMILAR DISCOVERIES.*

NO, I DON'T KNOW *WHY* THE SCANNERS SUDDENLY DETECTED THE EMANATIONS.

BUT THE MOST INTERESTING *ENERGY SIGNATURE* RADIATES FROM THE TRAIL LEADING TO *EARTH.*

IT SHOULD BE *INVESTIGATED.*

I WILL GO!

AND *SMASH* ANY RESISTANCE I MEET ALONG THE WAY.'

WHICH IS WHY SOMEONE *SUBTLER* WILL HANDLE THIS TASK, *WARRIOR.*

ARMOUR, YOUR *NIHILISTS?*

WELL DONE.

I SHALL *IMMEDIATELY* DISPATCH A *SQUAD* TO THE EARTH LOCATION, *MYSTIC.*

HOW IS X DOING WITH WARLOCK?

THEN IT IS AGREED THAT DISCOVERING ATLEZ'S IDENTITY SHOULD BE OUR TOP PRIORITY.

BUT HOW?

SEEING THAT ADAM'S NOW CONSCIOUS I DOUBT I CAN BE OF MUCH HELP, EVEN WITH HIS COOPERATION.

HOW ABOUT A TRIP BACK TO TH' OL' HOME-STEAD?

MONSTER ISLAND?

IT MIGHT PROVE A SUBTLE MEANS TO STIR YOUR MEMORY.

IF YOU THINK IT COULD HELP...

PIP, WOULD YOU...

WE'RE OUT OF HERE!

TAKING ADVICE FROM PIP THESE DAYS?

THE TRIP WAS MY IDEA... AND THEY WILL BE MONI-TORED.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU AND I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

YOU REFER TO LINKING MINDS WITH ME TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SITU-ATION?

EXACTLY.

WELL...

IF YOU INSIST...

I DO.

I AM LOWERING MY PSYCHIC SHIELDS.

JUST RELAX.

DON'T RESIST ME.

NOT IN THE LEAST.

OUR MINDS WILL BECOME ONE!

OPEN YOUR-SELF TO ME.

FULLY AND WITHOUT RESERVE.

FOR ONLY BY DOING SO...

...WILL YOU OPEN YOUR-SELF TO ME.

NOW YOU CAN SEE EVERY-THING.

BEHOLD THE TRUE ME!

No!

A PROLONGED PSYCHIC BATTLE WOULD HAVE PROVEN TIRESOME.

DON'T YOU AGREE?

INSTEAD I NOW WELCOME YOU TO THE LEGION OF OBLIVION... REFRESHED AND READY TO SERVE THE CAUSE.

DOOMSDAY IS UPON US, SISTER.

ALL HAIL ARMA-GEDDON!

AND ON A NAMELESS PLANET IN THE BACKWATERS OF THE GALAXY, ONE OF THANOS'S MANY HIDEAWAYS...

HE ONCE CALLED THIS PLANET HOME, DURING HIS SUPPOSED RETIREMENT YEARS...

BUT DURING HER APPROACH, GAMORA COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT DISTURBED HER MORE: THE APPARENT METEOR CRATER NEXT TO THE OUT-BUILDING, OR...

...THE NEARBY SKRULL RESEARCH VESSEL.

THE SKRULL SHIP MEANS UNEXPECTED COMPANY.

SO I TAKE ROSY ALONG FOR BACKUP.

SHE'LL HANDLE ANYTHING THE SKRULL EMPIRE HAS TO OFFER.

SHORT OF MAYBE THE SUPER-SKRULL HIMSELF.

BUT HE'D HAVE BETTER SENSE THAN TO MESS WITH ANYTHING BELONGING TO THANOS.

UPSTAIRS CLEAR.

TRESPASSERS MUST BE IN THE MAIN LAB.

HOLD ON A SECOND.!

THIS IS GETTING A BIT WEIRD.

MAIN POWER IS OFF, AND COLLAPSED ROBOTS EVERYWHERE.

AND NO METEOR CAUSED THAT OPENING IN THE ROOF.

IT WAS CREATED BY A CONTROLLED BLAST.

JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE A CLEAN HOLE AND SHORT OUT THE POWER GRID.

PRECISELY PLANNED AND EXECUTED, DESPITE THANOS'S DEFENSES.

SOMETHING'S EXTREMELY WRONG HERE!

PLEASE DON'T SHOOT. AND WOULD YOU KINDLY FOLLOW ME?

HUH?

THE MASTER WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU.

THE MASTER?!

IMPOSSIBLE!

YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEATEN ME HERE!

I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY RACE.

BUT ALLOW ME TO MAKE A WILD GUESS ON ANOTHER MATTER.

DID I RECENTLY TRY TO MURDER YOU?

IF NOT YOU, THANOS, THEN WHO?

AND WHAT DID YOU RUN INTO?

AN UNSTABLE NUCLEAR DEVICE?

A BLACK HOLE.

YOH SEEK KNOWLEDGE, GAMORA?

ANSWERS.

SOME MIGHT BE FOUND IN YONDER CHAMBER.

AM I GOING TO LIKE WHAT I FIND IN THERE?

SURPRISE, SURPRISE.

THAT SEEMS EXCEEDINGLY DOUBTFUL.

WOW!

THANOS, I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS SECRETLY ENJOYED BEING REFERRED TO AS THE MAD TITAN, FIGURING YOUR ENEMIES WERE UNDERESTIMATING YOU.

BUT WHAT'S IN THAT OTHER ROOM IS BY FAR THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN, BY ANY STANDARD!

WHAT KIND OF PARANOID FRENZY WERE YOU IN WHEN YOU CAME UP WITH THAT BIT OF LUNACY?

IN HIND-SIGHT, I GRANT YOU, FROM THE START IT PROVED TO BE A RATHER ILL-CONCEIVED CONCEPT.

THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

IT WAS A DEFENSIVE MEASURE.

THIS I'VE GOT TO HEAR!

WHILE THE REAL THANOS DONNED A NEW OUTFIT AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE DETAILS OF HIS UNAVOIDABLE CONFESSION, THE ADVENTURER KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN NEARED THE SOURCE OF A CERTAIN SIREN CALL.

THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE PLACE!

THE WAY MY SPIDER-SENSE IS WAILING, I'VE GOT TO BE ALMOST ON TOP OF WHATEVER'S STIMULATING IT.

THAT CLEARING AHEAD...

WHAT THE DEVIL?!!

I WAS EXPECTING MEPHISTO, OR MAYBE GALACTUS, OR AT LEAST A KREE INVASION FORCE.

INSTEAD I GET A NORMAN ROCKWELL FARMHOUSE!

WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE?

DARK AND POWERFUL FORCES RUN UNCHECKED.

THERE ARE STILL SO MANY OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME.

DID I PICK THE PROPER PLAYERS?

HAVE I DOOMED THE SUCCESSOR ??

WILL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE FALL INTO PLACE QUICKLY ENOUGH ?

TO BE CONTINUED

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> THANOS

> WARLOCK

> GAMORA

> MOONDRAGON

> PIP

> ATLEZ

>PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY ABYSS...

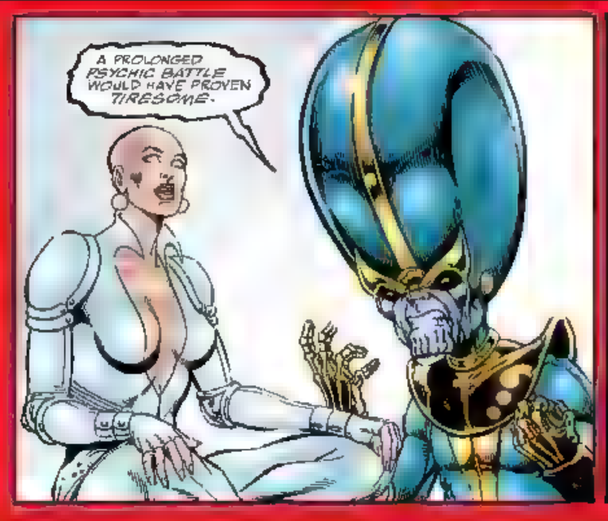
AWARE OF ANY RACE
MAKE A WILD GUESS ON ANOTHER MATTER
TRY TO MURDER YOU?
IF NOT YOU, THANOS, THEN WHO?
AND WHAT DID YOU RUN INTO?
AN UNSTABLE NUCLEAR DEVICE?
A BLACK HOLE

Both Thanos and his one-time ward Gamora were targeted for assasination by a cadre of strange, variant duplicates of the mad Titan. Making her way to the true Thanos' stronghold, Gamora watches as Thanos now prepares to reveal the origin of those who assaulted them.

AND NOW SHOULD KNOW BE LESS THAN TO DISTRUST ME NEED, HERESY!
THERE IS NEED ADAM WARLOCK
THERE IS A DIRE THREAT TO ALL REALITY, ENDANGERED LAN SVERT

After two years spent in hibernation, Adam Warlock, Thanos' arch-nemesis, has been revived by a bogus Thanos and Pip the Troll. This variant Thanos sets Warlock on a quest to discover the identity of a mysterious cosmic being known as Atlez.

Earth-based heroes Captain Marvel, Spider-Man, and Doctor Strange have all become aware of a mystery that threatens the universe--bizarre cubes of nothingness that appear seemingly at random. One such cube has already swallowed up the mighty Defenders.



The powerful telepath Moondragon has become a mind-thrall of the Thanos-doppelganger known as X.

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memory disorders

PERIL COMES IN MANY GUISES. SPIDER-MAN BEGAN TO TRULY REALIZE THIS ONCE HIS MYSTERIOUS SPIDER-SENSE LED HIM TO A SMALL FARM-HOUSE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK.

NOT DOC DOOM, DOC OCTOPUS, OR ANY OF YOUR CARD-CARRYING SUPER-BADDIES!

JUST YOUR AVERAGE FAMILY EATING A LATE BREAK-FAST.

WHERE'S THE DANGER HERE?

THE MILK GONE BAD?

JIM STARLIN
WRITER/PENCILS

AL MILGROM
INKER

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LETTERS

CHRISTIE SCHEELE & HEROIC AGE COLORS

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THEN AGAIN, MAYBE YOU'RE JUST GAPING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, SPIDEY!

LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF ALIENS TELEPORTING INTO THE BACKYARD.

NOW THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.

GOOD GUYS OR BAD?

DEFINITELY BAD.

LORD, I HATE DEALING WITH ALIENS!

ALWAYS FEEL OUT OF MY WEIGHT CLASS WITH THEM.

PLUS YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE REALLY AFTER.

GIVE ME A GOOD OL' SUPER-VILLAIN FROM EARTH ANY DAY!

WITH THEM IT'S ALWAYS EITHER MONEY, POWER, OR REVENGE.

THING IS, THOUGH, THESE OFF-WORLD TYPES ARE DEFINITELY NOT WHAT SET OFF MY SPIDER-SENSE.

THEY CLEARLY AIN'T THE A-TEAM. NO THREAT TO ME.

BUT SOMETHING'S ONCE AGAIN SETTING OFF THE BELLS AND WHISTLES.

THERE'S DANGER... BUT COMING FROM WHERE?

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR WORKOUT, SPIDER-MAN... BUT YOU'LL THANK ME...

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, I WAS WINNING THAT ROUND!

THAT IS ALL ABOUT TO CHANGE.

WATCH.

MY COSMIC SENSES WARNED ME THIS WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

SPATIAL DISRUP-TION, I THINK.

COSMIC SENSES?

WHAT IS IT?

A BLOCK OF ABSOLUTE NOTHING-NESS.

COOL POWER! HOW DO YOU GET THEM OUT OF THERE?

I HAVE NO IDEA. IT'S NOT MY DOING.

THEN WHO OR WHAT?

DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M CERTAIN IT'S ALL CONNECTED TO WHATEVER IT IS THAT HAS LED US BOTH HERE.

AS IS THIS FAMILY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY YARD?

AND WHILE THE TWO ADVENTURERS MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF BRIAN AND DEBBY LANGUNN AND THEIR TWIN DAUGHTERS, THE FAUX-THANOSES WERE DISCOVERING THEY HAD A MYSTERY OF THEIR OWN.

THERE IS AN INTRUDER ALERT SOUNDING FROM THE ORIGINAL'S MAIN RESIDENCE.

I SUSPECT IT IS THE ORIGINAL'S WARD, GAMORA.

ELIMINATE HER, ARMOUR, BEFORE SHE, TOO, BECOMES A PROBLEM.

WHAT ELSE HAS TRANSPIRED, MYSTIC?

OCCULT ACTIVITY ALONG ONE OF THE ENERGY TRAILS WE DETECTED.

DR. STRANGE IS THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE.

THEN I SHALL CRUSH HIM.

I THINK NOT, WARRIOR.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR NIHILIST CRUSADE.

OUR HIGH PRIESTESS OF OBLIVION, THE RECENTLY CONVERTED MOON-DRAGON.

X, SHE'S NOTHING BUT YOUR PET PSYCHIC SLAVE.

TRUE. BUT WITH THE MYSTIC'S AID SHE SHALL PUT AN END TO DR. STRANGE'S INTERFERENCE.

GO FORTH, AND ENLIGHTEN THE NON-BELIEVER, MY CHILD.

AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER X.

AND BACK AT THE ORIGINAL'S HIDEAWAY...

ONE OF THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY APPEARS TO BE A BIGGIE.

TELL ME A STORY, THANOS, LIKE WHEN I WAS A CHILD.

I REALIZED, AFTER FORSAKING MY QUEST FOR *DEATH'S AFFECTIONS* AND *TOTAL DOMINATION* OF THE *UNIVERSE*, THAT I STILL HAD TO *LIVE* IN THIS UNIVERSE.

OVER AN *EXTENDED LIFETIME* I HAVE MADE *MORE* THAN MY FAIR SHARE OF ENEMIES.

PLUS, LIFE ITSELF IS A *DANGEROUS ENTERPRISE* IN WHICH ONE MIGHT HAVE NEED FOR *TRUSTED ALLIES*.

I DETERMINED TO *TEST* THE STRENGTH AND RELIABILITY OF SEVERAL *PROBABLE FOES* AND *POSSIBLE COMRADES*.

SO I SET ABOUT CREATING MY *CHILDREN*.

WHAT ARE THEY, *CLONES*?

THEY ARE MY OWN UNIQUE BLEND OF *ANDROID*, *CLONE*, AND MYSTICAL *DOPPELGANGER*.

WHEN DID YOU START DABBLING IN THE *OCCULT*?

ABOUT *THREE CENTURIES* BEFORE YOUR BIRTH.

THE FIRST TEST INVOLVED *KA-ZAR* AND A *LOW-LEVEL MODEL* THAT PROVED *NEEDLESSLY DESTRUCTIVE*.

THAT *ASPECT* OF THE PROJECT DID *NOT* WORRY ME OVERMUCH UNTIL I SET A *HIGHER-POWERED* MODEL AGAINST *THOR* AND IT RAN COMPLETELY *OUT OF CONTROL*.

MILLIONS WERE *KILLED*.

IS THAT WHEN YOU WERE *SUPPOSEDLY SLAIN* BY THE THUNDER GOD?

YOU HEARD OF THE ASGARDIAN'S *GREAT VICTORY*? HE IS QUITE *PROUD* OF IT, YOU KNOW.

BUT THE *FINAL FIASCO* ONCE AGAIN INVOLVED THOR AND HIS FELLOW *AVENGERS*, AND CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED THE *PROJECT'S FAILURE*.

WHAT *AILED* YOUR KIDS?

AN *INTELLECTUAL DEFICIENCY*.

THEY ALWAYS OPTED FOR THE *MOST DESTRUCTIVE ANSWER* TO ANY PROBLEM.

ANY FORM OF *SUBTLE LOGIC* SEEMED BEYOND THEM AND, OF COURSE, THEIR *DESTRUCTIVE SHORTCOMINGS* MADE ME LEGIONS OF *NEW ENEMIES*.

TOO *DANGEROUS* AND *UNPREDICTABLE* TO USE EVEN UNDER *SUPERVISION*, THEY WERE SCHEDULED FOR *RECYCLING*.

AND THEN?

THEN THE *UNFORESEEN* OCCURRED.

A *MYSTERY PLAYER* ENTERED THE DRAMA AND BLASTED A *HOLE* IN MY ROOF.

THIS SHORTED OUT THE *POWER GRID*, DISABLED KEY *FAIL-SAFES* AND ACTIVATED *FIVE* OF THE *REPLICANTS*.

UPON EXAMINING THE ESCAPEES' *PSYCHIC MATRIX* RECORDS I DISCOVERED ADDITIONAL *TROUBLING FACTS*.

THE *QUINTET* APPEARS TO BE *FIXATED* WITH MY *NIHILISTIC PERSONALITY* PHASE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR *GREATEST DESIRE* IS TO PUT AN *END* TO ALL *LIFE* IN THE *UNIVERSE*.

THANOS, HOW *POWERFUL* ARE THESE *CLONES*?

THREE *RIVAL* MY OWN MIGHT, ONE IS A *LOWER-LEVEL MODEL*...

THE *FIFTH*?

THE *OMEGA* WAS A *MISTAKE* FROM THE START, ONE I WOULD HAVE NEVER *ACTIVATED*.

BUT WHAT IS EVEN MORE DISTURBING IS THAT THEIR *CORE PROGRAMMING* HAS BEEN ALTERED BY THEIR *MYSTERIOUS LIBERATOR*.

HE GAVE THEM *DIRECTION*.

ONE LINE OF DATA WAS ALL IT TOOK.

THE LINE READS...

ADAM WARLOCK IS THE KEY TO *OBLIVION*.

AND ON ANOTHER *PLANE OF EXISTENCE*, AS OBLIVIOUS AS I TO THE TRUE SCOPE OF THE DANGER WE FACED, **DR. STRANGE** CONTINUED FOLLOWING THE *ENERGY TRAIL* HE'D STUMBLED UPON.

WHAT'S *THIS?*

I SENSE *OCCULT ACTIVITIES* AT PLAY.

ANOTHER *MYSTIC* NEARBY?

YES!

NO.

YOU!

HOW DID YOU GET--

QUESTIONS FROM A *DEAD MAN* ARE OF *NO IMPORT.* ONLY *RESULTS* MATTER!

HAIL TO THE *COMING OBLIVION!*

DESPITE ITS NAME, *MONSTER ISLAND* WAS THE CLOSEST I EVER CAME TO HAVING A *HOME.*

THE SIGHT OF THOSE *RUINS* SADDENED BOTH *PIP* AND *ME.*

WHAT A MESS!

WONDER IF ANYTHING IN THE WINE CELLAR SURVIVED?

COMING HERE HAS DONE NOTHING TO REVEAL ATLEZ'S IDENTITY.

STILL DRAWING A BLANK, HUH?

HE WAS BEGGING FOR MY HELP...

SAY, ADAM, WHY'D YOU LOSE THE ROMAN CENTURIAN LOOK?

YOUR NEW TAILOR LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED.

I AM NOT WHAT I WAS.

I HAVE CHANGED.

INTO WHAT I AM NOT YET CERTAIN.

YOU'LL LET ME KNOW ONCE YOU FIND OUT?

OF COURSE. WHAT DO YOU CARRY IN ALL THOSE POCKETS?

JUST YOUR BASICS.

CIGARS AND EXPLOSIVES.

THIS IS WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND COMFORTING ABOUT YOU, PIP.

YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU WANT.

EVEN IF IT MAKES NO SENSE WHATSOEVER.

THANKS. I THINK.

YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO ENJOY LIFE.

YOUR GIFT, NOT MINE.

I WAS BORN IN, LIVED MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE IN, AND SEVERAL TIMES DIED AMIDST CONFLICT.

WITHOUT EVER TRULY KNOWING WHY.

YOU ABOUT TO GO INTO ONE OF YOUR WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE RANTS?

PERHAPS...

DON'T!

THE UNIVERSE OCCASIONALLY NEEDS A HERO TO PULL ITS FAT OUT OF THE COSMIC FIRES.

THAT'S YOUR JOB.

SO DEATH AND RESURRECTION ARE ALL I HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO?

MAYBE IF YOU TRIED TO LIGHTEN UP A BIT.

A LAUGHING ETERNAL WARRIOR? I FIND THAT HARD TO VISUALIZE.

ALL RIGHT, THEN ANSWER ME THIS: WHEN ATLEZ CALLED TO YOU...

...WAS HE FAR AWAY OR NEARBY?

I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

FAR AWAY.

BEYOND INFINITY.

BEYOND...

OF COURSE!

ETERNITY!

PIP, DO YOU STILL POSSESS THE KNACK OF *TELEPORTING* TO A *DESTINATION* YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IF YOUR PASSENGER *ENVISIONS* IT IN HIS MIND?

SURE!

BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITH *BROKEN* ARMS!

EASE UP!

MY *APOLOGIES.*

LET US BE OFF!

OKAY.

WHERE WE HEADING?

YOU *DON'T* WANT TO KNOW.

AND WHILE PIP AND I JOURNEYED TO A REALM *OUTSIDE* THE *NORM*, ANOTHER PLAYER PREPARED TO ENTER THIS *BYZANTINE* AFFAIR.

IT WAS THE THIRD WORLD TO DIE WITHIN THE KREE EMPIRE.

THIS SACRIFICE WAS REQUIRED TO *EMPOWER* THE PLAYER.

TO HIM, THE COST WAS *NOTHING.*

ONLY THE *HUNGER* AND HIS *ULTIMATE GOAL* MATTERED.

FIRST, AN OVER-POWERING HUNGER HAD TO BE SATISFIED.

MILLIONS OF SOULS PERISHED WITH THEIR HOMES.

THE REPLICANT X WAS DESIGNED TO TEST THE EARTH MUTANT PROF. X'S TELEPATHIC MIGHT.

WARRIOR TO DETERMINE THE ABILITIES OF THE SHI'AR GUARDIAN GLADIATOR.

OF COURSE MYSTIC WAS MEANT FOR DR. STRANGE.

AND ARMOUR, A THIRD LEVEL REPLICANT, FOR IRON MAN.

AND THE ONE YOU CALLED OMEGA?

WHAT'S THAT?

THE INTRUDER ALERT.

MORE UN-ANTICIPATED COMPANY.

IT IS THE REPLICANT ARMOUR, PROBABLY INVESTI-GATING YOUR TRESPASS.

YOU WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM.

WHY SHOULD I DO YOUR DIRTY WORK?

BECAUSE SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM OBLIVION WILL BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE IF THE CLONES LEARN I STILL LIVE.

I'M NO MATCH FOR HIM.

YOU NEED ONLY LURE HIM TO LEVEL S4, WHERE A TELE-PORTATION GATE WILL WHISK YOU TO SAFETY.

I SHALL HANDLE THE ACTUAL DISPOSAL.

OKAY.

BUT IF I REACH THAT SUB-BASEMENT, AND--

YOU FEAR BETRAYAL?

IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME.

TRUE. SO IT IS REASSURANCE YOU SEEK.

A LITTLE TRUST.

YOU HAVE NOW BECOME AN INTRICATE FACTOR IN MY PLANS.

GOOD ENOUGH.

GAMORA, YOU HAVE EXACTLY 10 MINUTES TO LEAD THE REPLICANT TO S4.

AND IF I DON'T MEET YOUR DEAD-LINE?

I WOULD HATE TO HAVE TO SACRIFICE THIS ENTIRE STRUCTURE TO RID MYSELF OF THAT IRON-CLAD NUISANCE.

TYPICAL THANOS.

MY BEING INSIDE THIS STRUCTURE DOESN'T MERIT EVEN MENTIONING.

THE DOPPELGANGER APPROACHES.

MY PREY.

WITHIN HIM THE ESSENCE OF THE MAN WHO RAISED ME.

KIN?

FATHER?

NO.

TARGET.

THIS IS A MAD GAME YOU PLAY, MOONDRAGON.

YOU MEDDLE IN DIRE MATTERS BEYOND YOUR COMPRE-HENSION.

SO YOU ARE ANOTHER'S THRALL?

I AM SHE WHO WILL BE ANSWERED.

RESIST ME NOT!

OR I SHALL PICK WHAT I CRAVE FROM THE RUINS OF YOUR MIND.

PSYCHIC TORTURE?

YOUR CHOICE, STRANGE.

MOON-DRAGON, EVEN WHEN A DEFENDER...

...YOU NEVER TRULY APPRECIATED THAT THE MYSTIC ARTS ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST A MENTAL DISCIPLINE.

I UNDER-STAND THIS AFFAIR BETTER THAN YOU, MYSTIC.

MY MASTER WOULD KNOW WHAT LITTLE YOU HAVE GLEANED.

FOR THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS THE LINE BETWEEN REALITY AND PSYCHIC ILLUSION IS WELL DEFINED.

DISPELLING EVEN A MASTERFULLY INDUCED FALSE PERCEPTION IS A SIMPLE MATTER.

THEN YOU FORCE ME TO MORE BRUTAL, MIND-DAMAGING METHODS, MYSTIC.

I HAD HOPED, AFTER EXTRACTING THE INTELLI-GENCE I SEEK, TO RECRUIT YOU TO THE CAUSE.

THEN IT IS YOU WHO LIVE IN FANTASY.

I CLEARLY SEE THAT NOW.

SO EXPECT NO MERCY.

INTO THE REALMS OF UNRELENTING MADNESS WITH YOU, MAGE.

NEVER AGAIN WILL THE COMFORTING TOUCH OF SANITY BE YOURS.

YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST TO ASSAULT ME ON SUCH A LEVEL, MISTRESS MOON-DRAGON.

IT IS NO GREAT TASK TO DISPEL THE CHAOS YOU SEEK TO RAVAGE ME WITH.

BEGONE, ILLUSION!

BUT MERE DEFENSIVE MEASURES WILL NOT SETTLE THIS DISPUTE.

NOW LET THERE BE A RECKON-ING!

YOU INSULT ME, MAGE.

I WILL NOT BE DECEIVED BY SIMPLE CONJURINGS!

A SINGLE THOUGHT DISMISSES YOUR MIRRORED ALLIES!

BUT THEY HAVE GAINED ME THE TIME NEEDED TO SECURE MYSELF PSYCHIC-ALLY.

WE NOW FACE EACH OTHER ON EQUAL FOOTING.

YOU THINK I FEAR A FRONTAL ASSAULT FROM YOU?

DREAM ON.!!

IDENTITY'S FOUNDATION WAS THE INTENDED GROUND ZERO IN THIS PSYCHIC BOMBARDMENT.

BOTH COMBATANTS DESPERATELY SUMMONED MEMORY AS THEIR PRIMARY LINE OF DEFENSE.

BUT, AS THE BATTLE RAGED ON, EVEN THESE SAFEGUARDS PROVED INSUFFICIENT.

THEIR SELVES, REFLECTED IN THE EYES OF THOSE DEAREST TO THEM, ANCHORED THEIR RESPECTIVE SOULS.

ULTIMATELY, IT CAME DOWN TO SHEER STRENGTH OF WILL.

THE FIRE OF ONE FIGHTING SPIRIT AGAINST ANOTHER.

THE PSYCHIC INFERNO ROARED TO SOUL-SEARING INTENSITY.

ENDING IN A BLINDING CLIMAX.

ONE THE VICTOR.

ONE THE VANQUISHED.

LONG YEARS OF OCCULT STUDY AND CONDITIONING GAINED STRANGE HIS TRIUMPH.

HIS SOUL GROUNDED ALMOST TO THE POINT OF BEING AN ASTRAL CONSTANT.

THIS DAY HE WELL EARNED THE TITLE OF MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.

BUT AS WITH ALL GREAT VICTORIES...

THERE WAS A COST TO BE PAID...

MEANWHILE, PIP AND I HAD FINALLY REACHED OUR DESTINATION, MUCH TO MY COMPANION'S DISMAY...

THAT'S THE LAST TIME I LET YOU DRIVE.

EVERY TIME YOU TAKE THE WHEEL WE END UP EITHER IN HELL, DEATH'S DOMAIN, OR SOME OTHER PLACE AND SITUATION WHERE WE DON'T BELONG.

QUIET, PIP, THIS MAKES NO SENSE.

ETERNITY AND INFINITY ARE THE EPONYMOUS PERSONIFICATIONS OF ALL TIME AND SPACE.

THEY ARE DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.

IT IS INDEED RARE TO SEE THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY.

BUT TO FIND THEM LIKE THIS...

ADAM WARLOCK, WHY DO YOU LINGER?

AND WHY DID WE NOT NOTICE YOUR LITTLE FRIEND BEFORE?

HAVE THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES BECOME DERANGED?

WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?

YOU ARE BECOMING AN ANNOYANCE!

THAT'S EASY TO ANSWER.

THINGS HAVE OBVIOUSLY JUST GONE FROM EXTREMELY BAD TO UNBELIEVABLY WORSE.

TIME AND SPACE BEGIN TO DETERIORATE.

THE MESSENGER DRAWS NEAR.

BUT HE IS SO DAMAGED.

AND THE FORCES OF OBLIVION...

THEY TOO APPROACH.

AND THEY ARE SO POWERFUL.

PERHAPS INVINCIBLE.

TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL PG

THANOS: INFINITY ABYSS™

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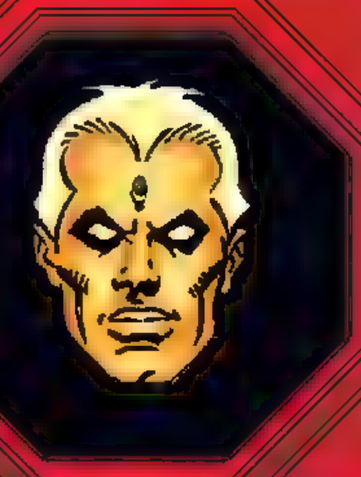
> THANOS



> WARLOCK

> GAMORA

> MOONDRAGON

> PIP

> ATLEZ

>PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY ABYSS...

I REALIZED AFTER FORSAKING MY QUEST FOR DEATH'S AFFECTIONS AND TOTAL DOMINATION OF THE UNIVERSE, THAT I STILL HAD TO LIVE IN THIS UNIVERSE
OVER AN EXTENDED LIFETIME I HAVE MADE MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE OF ENEMIES
PLUS LIFE ITSELF IS A DANGEROUS ENTERPRISE IN WHICH WE MIGHT HAVE NEED FOR TRUSTED ALLIES
I DETERMINED TO TEST THE STRENGTH AND RELIABILITY OF SEVERAL PROBABLE FOES AND POSSIBLE COMRADES

Thanos and his one-time ward Gamora were targeted for assassination by a cadre of enhanced Thanos doppelgangers created by the Mad Titan himself.

ADAM WARLOCK, WHY DO YOU LINGER?
AND WHY DID WE NOT NOTICE YOUR LITTLE FRIEND BEFORE?
HAVE THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES GONE DERANGED?
WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?
YOU ARE BECOMING AN ANNIHILATOR!
THAT IS EASY TO ANSWER
THINGS HAVE BEEN WEIRD JUST COME FROM EXTREMELY BAD WHERE IS ARLY WORSE

Adam Warlock discovered that Eternity and Infinity, the living embodiments of space and time, had merged into a single being. Now all of reality depends upon Warlock discovering the truth about the mysterious entity called Atlez.

Meanwhile, Doctor Strange, Earth's Sorceror Supreme, was attacked by Moondragon, a powerful telepath under the mind-control of the Thanos doppelganger called X. Moondragon's assault failed to destroy Strange--although the battle left him in a weakened state.

As Captain Marvel and Spider-Man explore the mystery surrounding a seemingly normal human family, X has unleashed the most powerful of all the Thanos clones--one that even Thanos himself fears.

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BREAKDOWN!

"LIKE A RUNAWAY CEMENT TRUCK ON STEROIDS" THOUGHT GAMORA.

NO SURPRISE HER TRUSTED BLASTER, BETSY, PROVED NO MATCH FOR THE AWE-SOME MIGHT OF THE THANOS DOPPEL-GANGER, ARMOUR.

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THIS FUSILLADE'S SOLE PURPOSE IS JUST TO GET ARMOUR'S ATTENTION.

A NOT-SO-SUBTLE MEANS TO LEAD HIM INTO THE REAL THANOS'S DEATH TRAP.

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS AVOID GETTING FRENCH FRIED WHILE I'M BEING SO CLEVER.

MEANWHILE, PIP AND I WERE TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK OF FINDING ETERNITY AND INFINITY MERGED INTO A SINGLE BEING.

A SLIGHTLY DERANGED ENTITY.

WE ARE CONSIDERING TURNING THE UNIVERSE INSIDE-OUT.

I'D HOLD OFF ON THAT IDEA.

COULD WE FIRST SPEAK OF MY LAST VISIT?

HOLY COSMIC SCHIZOPHRENIA, ADAM.!!

QUIET, PIP, THIS IS SERIOUS!

THE BARRIER BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE IS DISINTEGRATING!

ALL REALITY IS IMPERILED!

ETERNITY, INFINITY, I VISITED YOU TWO YEARS BACK...

YES...

MORE THAN HALF A BUBBLE OFF-LEVEL.

ETERNITY, I CAME HERE SEEKING YOUR AID IN AN IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.

BUT I HAVE BEEN INJURED, INFINITY, AND CANNOT REMEMBER THAT TASK.

CAN YOU HELP ME RECALL OUR LAST MEETING?

OF COURSE. YOU FOOLISHLY DESIRED TO DEPART FROM OUR PRESENCE.

LEAVE TIME AND SPACE!

OF COURSE!

EVEN YOU ARE FINITE!

HOW DID I LEAVE?

BY PESTERING US WITH LOGIC, NEED AND EMOTION!

AND?

TO PUT AN END TO YOUR INCESSANT WHINING WE GRANTED YOU...

AND AS ALWAYS, YOU WERE MOST ANNOYING.

THIS!

CAN IT TRULY BE?

IT IS!

A PORTAL TO BEYOND THE REALMS OF TIME AND SPACE.

MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN MARVEL AND SPIDER-MAN WERE DISCOVERING THE DARKER SIDE OF COUNTRY LIVING!

QUICKLY! EVERYONE INTO THE FARMHOUSE!

WHAT'S UP, CAP?

ANOTHER APPROACHING TIME/SPACE DISRUPTION!

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS PICKING IT UP ALSO.

MOVE IT!

SPIDER WHAT?

WHY DO YOU THINK THINGS WILL BE SAFE INSIDE THE HOUSE, GENIS?

I'M NOT SURE, RICK...

I JUST DO!

WE'RE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE A MUCH LARGER DISTURBANCE THAN THE ONE THAT IMPRISONED THOSE ALIENS EARLIER.

HOW BAD'S THE NEWS, MARVEL?

BIGGER? HOW MUCH BIGGER?

MY COSMIC SENSES WARN ME THAT WE ARE AT THE FOCAL POINT OF SOME MAJOR COSMIC EVENT.

MEANING WHAT?

I'M NOT SURE.

YOU COSMIC TYPES ARE ALWAYS A LITTLE SHY ON SPECIFICS, AREN'T YOU?

WE TRY.

YOU MIGHT BE GETTING A BAD READING THIS TIME.

LOOKS PRETTY PEACEFUL OUT THERE TO ME.

WAIT A MINUTE!

THOUGHT IT WAS JUST FOG AT FIRST!

IT'S NOT!

EVERYTHING'S FADING AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS!

WE'RE GOING TO BE...

IT PASSED US BY!

EVERYTHING ELSE HAS DISAPPEARED BUT US!

HOW?!

WHY?!

IT APPEARS THAT WE HAVE BEEN PROTECTED FROM THIS PLAGUE OF NOTHING-NESS.

BY WHAT?

ONCE AGAIN, I CANNOT SAY.

MY COSMIC SENSES ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY FOCUSING ON THE ENERGIES AT PLAY.

BOY, I'VE ALWAYS COMPLAINED ABOUT WANTING TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL.

BUT THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS!

SPEAKING OF RIDICULOUS...

RICK?

WHO'S RICK?

SOMEONE I'VE APPARENTLY LOST CONTACT WITH.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF LOST CONTACT...

I CAN'T HAVE DITCHED HIM.

I WAS KEEPING MY SPEED DOWN AND HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME.

WHERE?!

THE ANSWER COMES TO ME THROUGH THE WALL AND NEARLY COSTS ME MY HEAD

BETSY'S NOT SO LUCKY.

ARMOUR'S OUTFIT IS OBVIOUSLY LOADED WITH TRACKING DEVICES.

ONLY THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE PSEUDO-THANOS'S BIRTHPLACE HAS PROBABLY KEPT HIM FROM REALLY TURNING ON THE POWER AND DOING ME IN.

BUT NOW HE'S TOO CLOSE FOR ME TO SAFELY REACH THE STAIRS.

DIE!

FORTUNATELY I KNOW HOW THIS PLACE IS LAID OUT.

FIRST A GRATING DIVERSION, THEN...

...A CLEVER EXIT...

SORRY ABOUT THE TERRIBLE PUN!

I MUST ONCE AGAIN EXIT THIS REALITY.

WHATEVER.

DON'T YOU MEAN WE MUST EXIT-?

NO, THE LAST TIME I ATTEMPTED THIS TREK, IT NEARLY SHATTERED MY MIND.

BUT I BELIEVE I AM NOW BETTER PREPARED TO FACE THE EXPERIENCE.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR MY PSYCHE, ADAM, BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T RETURN?

RETURN TO THANOS AND INFORM HIM OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED.

BAD IDEA!

NO TIME TO ARGUE!

THE BIG T LIKES TO KILL THE MESSEN-GER!

REMEMBER ONE TIME I BROUGHT HIM BAD NEWS...

...HE LOBOTOMIZED ME!!

FORTUNATELY IT DIDN'T STICK.

CRIPES!

TALKING TO MYSELF AGAIN.

ETERNITY, INFINITY, WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF...

ANY PLACE AROUND HERE WHERE A TROLL CAN GET A GOOD STIFF DRINK?

STIFF DRINK?

I DIDN'T THINK SO.

ESCAPING THEIR CURRENT SITUATION SEEMED THE MOST APPROPRIATE NEXT STEP TO SPIDER-MAN AND CAPTAIN MARVEL.

AND SEEING HOW THE WEB-SLINGER WAS INCAPABLE OF FLIGHT...

...AND I'LL RETURN ONCE I'VE CONTACTED THE AVENGERS.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR MIGHT BE A BETTER BET.

RICHARDS HAS TONS OF EXPERIENCE WITH INTER-DIMENSIONAL WEIRDNESS.

MEANWHILE I'LL MAKE MYSELF USEFUL BY ENTERTAINING THE KIDS WITH SOME WEB TRICKS.

SPIDER-MAN, BETTER THAN A FOR-HIRE PARTY CLOWN.

MAYBE I CAN--

HUH?!

THAT CLEARLY DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL.

THE OL' MOBIUS STRIP DILEMMA?

OR MAYBE OUR PRISON IS SPHERICAL.

OR PERHAPS SOME VERY BASIC LAWS OF PHYSICS DON'T APPLY IN THIS VOID.

BUT IT DID GIVE MY COSMIC SENSES SOME PERSPECTIVE.

LOSING ME AGAIN.

I'VE ZEROED IN ON HOW WE WERE SAVED FROM THE NIL ENGULF-MENT!

YOU KNOW WHAT PROTECTED US?

NOT WHAT. WHO.

THE LAN-GUNNS?

NOT THE PARENTS.

THE KIDS?!

I DON'T SEE THE AVENGERS WITH YOU.

SORRY, MR. LANGUNN, BRIAN, THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT THE WAY I PLANNED.

BUT DON'T GET DISCOURAGED.

SPIDER-MAN AND I GET OUT OF FIXES LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.

YEAH, EVERY-DAY.

THE TWINS?

UP! DOWN!

I GET NO READINGS OFF THE CHILD, RUBY.

BUT HER SISTER...

"THE GIRL THEY CALL ATLEZA RADIATES INCREDIBLE COSMIC POWER."

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, WOMAN!!

HE'S RATHER SINGLE-MINDED AND LACKS MUCH OF A VOCABULARY, BUT THIS ARMOUR SURE CAN MOVE!

BUT SO CAN I AND I'M ONLY A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM...

ONLY A FEW STEPS.

SO NEAR.

SO FAR.

WHEN YOUR ENEMY CAN LASH OUT WITH DEVASTATING ENERGY BURSTS.

ALMOST MADE IT.

SO CLOSE.

BUT CLOSE ONLY COUNTS WITH EXPLO-SIVES.

DEATH BECKONS!

FAILED.

ONLY ONE PRICE FOR FAILURE IN THIS LIFE.

NOW I PAY IT!

I THINK NOT, PRETENDER!

THANOS!

FATHER!

DO NOT CALL ME THAT!

YOU KILLED HIM!

YOU KILLED YOUR-SELF!

ON YOUR FEET,

WHEN OUR LABORS END, YOU CAN PONDER THE MURKY META-PHYSICS OF THIS SLAYING.

DIDN'T THINK COSMIC POWERHOUSES PUT UP WITH TICKLING DADS.

YOU REALLY FIGURE SHE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THAT NOTHINGNESS OUT THERE..?

NO, I BELIEVE SHE MAY HAVE BEEN THE TARGET OF THE NIL ENGULFMENT.

I SENSE SHE'S SOMEHOW KEEPING THE OBLIVION AT BAY, PERHAPS SUB-CONSCIOUSLY.

THERE IS NO THREAT WITHIN HER, ONLY CHILDISH INNO-CENCE.

YOU SENSE ANYONE COMING TO GET US OUT OF HERE?

NOT DIRECTLY, BUT...

A HUGE SPHERE OF NOTHING-NESS IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK STATE IS BOUND TO PROMPT AN INTENSE INVESTIGATION.

YEAH... YOU SAID THE OTHERS WERE CUBES.

BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU TRACKING UP THE LANGUNNS' WALLS..?

IT'S A THING I DO WHEN I'M NERVOUS.

X-- ARMOUR IS DEAD!

I HAVE SENSED HIS PASSING!

I TOO, MYSTIC, FELT HIS DEPARTURE.

THE WOMAN GAMORA?

PERHAPS. PLUS ARMOUR'S NIHILIST PATROL HAS FAILED TO REPORT IN, AND I HAVE LOST CONTACT WITH MOON-DRAGON.

I LIKE THIS NOT.

A CHANGE OF STRATEGIES IS DEFINITELY IN ORDER.

I LOATHE DIVIDING OUR MAIN FORCE, BUT...

A BAND OF ELITE NIHILISTS AND I WILL HEAD TO THE EMANATION SOURCE ON EARTH.

WHILE YOU AND WARRIOR...

INVESTIGATE YOUR SLAVE'S FATE AND CONTINUE ALONG THE ENERGY TRAIL DR. STRANGE WAS FOLLOWING?

EXACTLY.

WILL THERE BE BATTLE?

PROBABLY.

THEN LET US BE OFF!

YOU'RE SPYING ON THE REPLICANTS USING THEIR OWN SYSTEMS?

HARDWARE STOLEN FROM ME ONCE THE USURPERS THOUGHT ME DEAD.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THEY NOT DISCOVER THE FOLLY OF THAT MISGUIDED BELIEF.

THEY MUST NOT REALIZE I NOW KNOW ALL THEIR PLANS AND RESOURCES.

AND THAT I KNOW THEIR DREAMS.

RECYCLED HOPES OF MY OWN.

THEY EMBRACE DEATH AND OBLIV-ION.

PERHAPS THEY EVEN FOOLISHLY HOPE MISTRESS DEATH WILL REWARD THEIR EFFORTS WITH A SMILE.

A WORD.

A KISS.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SUCH A POSSIBILITY DROVE ME TO DARK MEASURES.

SO TEMPTING, THE CALL OF OBLIVION.

THANOS!

WORRY NOT, GAMORA.

I AM NOW AN OLDER AND WISER TITAN...

NO LONGER TRICKED BY EMPTY, UNSPOKEN PROMISES...

AND BACK AT WHERE EMPTY HAS BECOME A STATE OF BEING.

WE LOST THE LANGUNNS.

TO THE ARMS OF MORPHEUS.

JUST AS WELL. NOW WE CAN TALK FREELY.

SOME COFFEE, CAP.?

I DON'T USUALLY, BUT...

IT MIGHT BE A LONG NIGHT...

DAY.

OR WHAT-EVER.

NOTHINGNESS.

WITHIN THIS NIL PRISON, TIME MAY NOT EVEN APPLY.

BACK IN OUR OWN REALITY, THE CLOCK MIGHT HAVE STOPPED, OR PERHAPS DECADES HAVE PASSED.

THANKS FOR CHEERING ME UP.

JUST SPECU-LATING ALOUD.

THIS SUPERHEROING. WHAT A LIFE.!

YOU MARRIED, CAP?

NO. YOU?

PART OF THE ARMY OF THE UNHAPPILY SEPARATED.

OLD STORY: CRIME-FIGHTING GOT IN THE WAY.

YOU GOT A SPECIAL LADY AT LEAST?

NOT REALLY.

MY LIFE IS RATHER COMPLI-CATED.

A MESS, REALLY.

I HEAR YOU. ONE DAY SOON I'M GOING TO CLEAN UP MY OWN MESS.

MAYBE EVEN HANG UP THE OL' TIGHTS AND MASK.

THAT IS IF...

IF WHAT?

IF WE GET OUT OF OUR CURRENT SITUATION.

YOUR SUPER-SENSES GIVING YOU ANY ODDS ON THAT?

ANSWER HAZY. ASK AGAIN LATER.

OH, YEAH... I REALLY HATE YOU COSMIC TYPES.

YOU SHOULD KNOW, THEY'RE COMING.

ATLEZA, AND SHE'S NOW REMARKABLY MORE VERBAL THAN YOUR AVERAGE TWO-YEAR-OLD.

THE TERM'S PRECOCIOUS.

IT'S OKAY, SWEETHEART. WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT YOU.

YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

COSMICALLY PRECOCIOUS?

THE MAN LEADING THEM CAN SEIZE YOUR MINDS.

LEADING WHO?

ALIEN NIHILISTS.

NIHILISTS?

THANOS USED TO RUN A BAND OF NIHILISTS!

OUTSIDE!

YES. THANOS.

SORT OF.

THANOS?!

I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW.

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!!

ANYONE YOU FIND WITHIN THE DWELLING, KILL!

THAT AIN'T THANOS!

IT'S SOME OUT-OF-SHAPE WANNABE!

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF HIS HEAD!

SHE SAID HE COULD SEIZE OUR MINDS...

IN A REALM ONLY A MYSTIC ADEPT COULD REACH.

X'S MENTAL THRALL MOONDRAGON, AND DR. STRANGE APPARENTLY TOOK EACH OTHER OUT!

NO ONE FOR ME TO CRUSH!

BUT STILL WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

NOW THAT WE FOLLOW THE SAME ENERGY TRAIL STRANGE WAS INVESTIGATING, I UNDERSTAND WHY HE CHOSE THIS ROUTE.

THE SENSE OF WHAT WE SEEK IS STRONG ON THIS PATH.

AND NEAR.

THE ANCHOR OF REALITY IS WITHIN OUR REACH.

FOR ONCE, WARRIOR, YOU AND I ARE IN AGREE-MENT!

THEN LET US HUNT IT DOWN-- AND DESTROY IT!

NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW!

LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER, *THANOS* AND *GAMORA* WERE CRUISING A BACKWATER SECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE IN A NEW *FLAGSHIP* HE'D SUMMONED.

THIS IS THE *THIRD PLANET* WE HAVE FOUND *SO GUTTED.*

WE ARE *TOO LATE* TO KEEP THE *OMEGA* FROM *FEEDING.*

HE IS NOW AT *FULL POWER.*

FEEDING?

THANOS, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU *DESIGNED* THIS *OMEGA* TO TAKE ON--

ADMITTEDLY IT WAS A *SEVERE LAPSE* IN JUDGMENT.

I NEVER *REALLY PLANNED* ON *ACTIVATING* IT.

I SUPPOSE ONCE IT *OCCURRED* TO ME TO ATTEMPT SUCH AN *AUDACIOUS TASK*, IT WAS A *CHALLENGE* I COULD NOT RESIST.

AND NOW?

NOW WE MUST SOME-HOW DESTROY A *REINCAR-NATION* OF MYSELF THAT IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE **GALACTUS**, THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS!

FINALLY SELF-AWARENESS OR PERHAPS CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNED TO ME.

ACCOMPANIED BY SHOCK AND CONFUSION.

WHEN LAST I VISITED THIS REGION, I RETURNED WITH THE SOUVENIRS OF AMNESIA AND BEFUDDLEMENT.

MY MIND HAS OBVIOUSLY DEVISED A MEANS TO AVOID SUCH A RECURRENCE!

NONE OF THIS IS REAL!

I DRIFT THROUGH MEMORY!

I AM REMEMBERING MY PREVIOUS JOURNEY TO THIS ACTUALITY TWO YEARS PAST.

WHAT?!

I'M IN MY OLD OUTFIT!

MY PREVIOUS INCARNATION.

CLEVER.

EVERY MOVE AND WORD IS PREORDAINED!

ONLY MY MIND APPEARS TO BE FREE.

I CAN FEEL MY SOUL GEM DIRECTING ME.

TOWARDS WHAT?

THEN I REALIZED...

I WAS INDEED OUTSIDE THE INFLUENCE OF ETERNITY AND INFINITY.

UNTOUCHED BY EITHER TIME OR SPACE.

IT WAS A VORTEX OF MYRIAD ALLS, SPIRALING UPWARDS INTO AN INFINITY BEYOND INFINITY.

WERE THEY VARIATIONS OF MY OWN REALITY OR MIRROR IMAGES?

THIS I WOULD NOT LEARN, FOR I CHOSE THAT MOMENT TO LOOK...

...INTO THE COSMIC ABYSS, AND WITH A SOUL-SEARING JOLT UNDERSTOOD THE PERIL MY REALITY FACED.

IT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THIS LOW WITHIN THE VORTEX.

MY ALL WAS ADRIFT, NEARING THE EDGE OF OBLIVION.

THIS WAS WHY I HAD BEEN SUMMONED.

THE SOUL GEM IGNORED MY HORROR AND SPURRED ME ON.

NOT BACK TO A FAMILIAR REALITY, BUT TO A HOVERING BLACK ORB.

THE INADEQUATE ANCHOR OF MY ACTUALITY.

INVITATION.

ACCEPTANCE.

ENTRANCE.

THE GEM HAS STRONG BONDS WITH THE CELESTIAL.

IT CAN STEAL SOULS.

THESE PURLOINED SPIRITS RESIDE WITHIN ME.

ARE A PART OF ME.

THEIR ENERGIES CAN BE UTILIZED.

FIERY ENERGY BLASTS...

...OR...

SIMPLE ILLUMINATION.

WITH THIS LIGHT, I LOCATED THE PAVILION FLOATING SILENTLY WITHIN THE STYGIAN GULF.

AND CAME TO REALIZE I WAS ABOUT TO MEET A FLESH-AND-BLOOD ABSTRACT CONCEPT.

AN INTRINSIC PART OF THE COMPLEX MECHANISM THAT IS REALITY.

IT HAS GUIDED ME TO ITS ANCIENT PALACE, OLD EVEN BEFORE EARTH'S DESPERATE AND CHAOTIC MASS BONDED WITH THE SUN.

WITHIN THE SARCOPHAGUSES, WHICH RINGED THE PAVILION'S OUTER EDGE, RESTED ATLEZ'S PREDECESSORS.

SOMEWHERE IN THE DARK, AN EMPTY COFFIN PATIENTLY AWAITED ATLEZ.

WHICH WAS WHY I HAD BEEN SUMMONED.

ALL THIS THE SOUL GEM KNEW, AND I NOW KNEW.

I DID NOT QUESTION THIS.

I HAVE LONG ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THE SOUL GEM ONLY REVEALS ITS SECRETS WHEN IT CHOOSES.

FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS IT OCCURED TO ME THAT I HAD BEEN SELECTED TO REPLACE ATLEZ IN HIS LABORS.

BUT I QUICKLY REALIZED THE FOLLY OF SUCH A NOTION.

LONG AGO I CAME TO SEE THE UNIVERSE KEEPS ME AROUND FOR FAR LESS SAVORY WORK.

I AM ITS CLEAN-UP MAN.

MY JOB IS TO SWEEP UP THE DEBRIS OF COSMIC DISASTERS.

AND OCCASIONALLY AVERT THEM.

ATLEZ!

I HAVE ARRIVED!

AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!

FOR MY **TIME** AND **POWER** FADE AND CIRCUMSTANCE HAS KEPT MY **CHOSEN HEIR** FROM RELIEVING ME.

IF MY LABORS GO UNATTENDED, **YOUR REALITY** WILL CEASE TO **BE.**

HOW CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

SEEK OUT A NEWBORN EARTH CHILD NAMED **ATLEZA LANGUNN** AND RUSH HER TO MY SIDE!

IT WAS A TASK, I NOW KNEW, I HAD ALREADY FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO.

TO BE CONTINUED

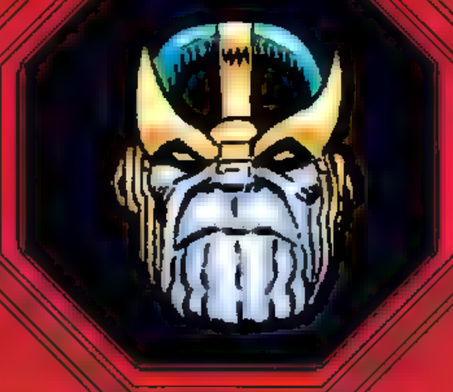
MARVEL PG

THANOS: INFINITY ABYSS™

5 of 6

STARLIN
MILGROM

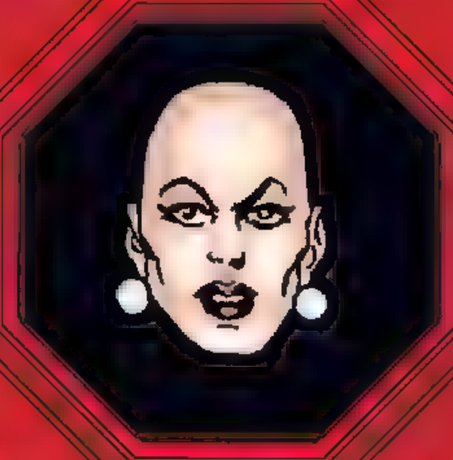
MARVEL



> THANOS

> WARLOCK

> GAMORA

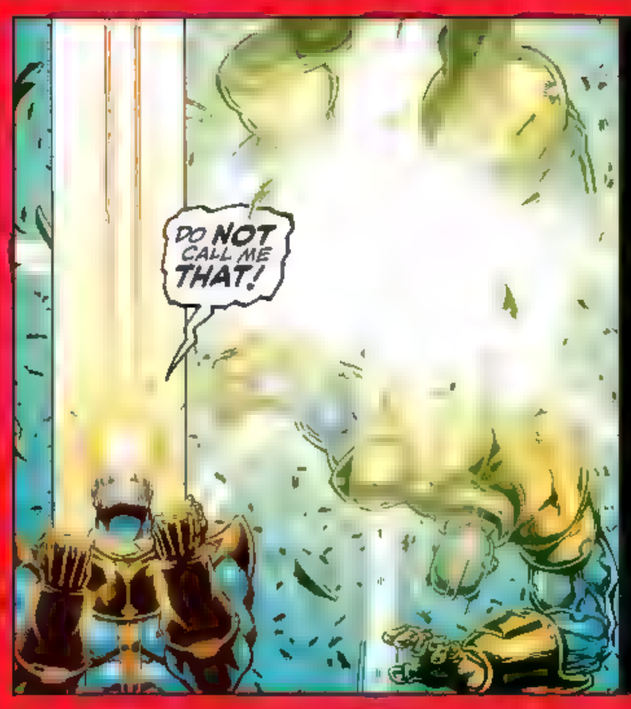


> MOONDRAGON

> PIP

> ATLEZ

>PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY ABYSS...



Thanos and his one-time ward Gamora were targeted for assasination by a cadre of strange, variant duplicates of the Mad Titan. After destroying the Thanos clone called Armour, the true Thanos and Gamora now head towards a small country house floating in a vast expanse of nothingness.

Adam Warlock learned that the mysterious Atlez's days of anchoring reality are over, and that a replacement guardian must be retrieved immediately or the universe will perish. Warlock departs to find Atleza Langunn, a small child currently residing in a small country house floating in a vast expanse of nothingness.

Meanwhile, Captain Marvel and Spider-Man have been drawn to the seemingly normal Langunn family, only to have a powerful reality wave sweep over them--leaving the family and the two heroes stranded upon a small country house floating in a vast expanse of nothingness.

Omega, the most powerful of the Thanos doppelgangers, has been summoned to destroy the heroes and Atleza. They are unaware and quite possibly powerless to stop this creature intent on hurtling the cosmos into the Infinity Abyss.

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THE TELEPATHIC THANOS REPLICANT, X, WAS CERTAIN HIS NIHILISTS COULD MAKE SHORT WORK OF ANYONE TRAPPED WITHIN THE SPHERE OF NOTHINGNESS.

HE WAS, OF COURSE, SADLY MIS-TAKEN.

OUR PREY HIDES WITHIN YONDER BUILDING.

THEY SEEK TO EVADE MY PSYCHIC PROBING...

...WITH AN INCESSANT MENTAL CHANT ABOUT AN ITSY-BITSY SPIDER.

LOCATE AND KILL EVERYONE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE.

YES, MASTER.

ENTERING!

TARGET LOCATED.

PREPARING TO TERMINATE.

YOU WISH.

ERRORS IN JUDGMENT

CAP, YOU WERE GETTING DOWN ON ME FOR WALKING ON THE LANGUNNJ' WALLS.

LESS TALK, WALL-CRAWLER!

MORE BATTLE!

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CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS GOOD REASON TO TAKE THESE NIHILISTS SERIOUSLY.

I TRAINED EACH OF THEM.

CAN HE AND SPIDER-MAN HANDLE THEM, THANOS?

WITH SOME EFFORT.

AND X?

AGAINST HIM, GAMORA, THEY ARE LOST.

THEN THEY'LL NEED OUR HELP.

WE WILL SEE.

SPIDEY, KEEP THE TROOPERS BUSY WHILE I TACKLE ASTRODOME.

YOH GOT IT!

A PHOTON-BLAST?!

YOU MUST BE THAT ACCURSED KREE MAR-VELL'S WHELP!

IN THIS NEAR-ZERO GRAVITY--

--THESE ALIENS ARE JUST GOONS WITH GUNS TO ME.

THEY ARE RATHER PATHETIC, ARE THEY NOT...

...WHEN COMPARED AGAINST MY AWESOME PSYCHIC MIGHT!

WHAT?!

I'M FREEZING UP!!

MERELY SUCCUMBING TO MY MENTAL DOMINATION, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU AND THE CAPTAIN HAVE BECOME MY PSYCHIC THRALLS!

MARVEL, YOU WILL NOW FIRE A LETHAL PHOTONIC BLAST AT YOUR COMRADE!

CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM HERE!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET YOUR SHOTGUN, BRIAN.

DON'T BOTHER, FATHER, AND PLEASE...

...STEP AWAY FROM THE WINDOW.

ATLEZA?

DO NOT ATTEMPT RESISTANCE.

MY WILL IS ALL!

FIGHT IT, MARVEL!

YOU CANNOT DENY ME!

OBEY MY COMMAND!

KILL SPIDER-MAN!

DO IT NOW!

NO!

THAT SOUND!

HORRIBLE.

SEE?

I TOLD YOU.

IIIEEEEE!!

THAT'S GOT TO HURT.

BUT IS IT ENOUGH TO STOP HIM?

THE BLADE IS TIPPED WITH ENOUGH POISON...

...TO DROP A PACK OF WOLVER-TONS!

YES, THAT SHOULD DO IT.

WOLVERTONS?

ACCKK!

HEY, GUYS... HE'S TOUGHER THAN YOUR WOLVERTONS.

THE ORIGINAL'S WARD, GAMORA!

WELL, THREE CAN DIE AS EASILY AS TWO...

...WHEN ONE HAS NEARLY UNLIMITED PSI CAPABILITIES AT HIS DISPOSAL!

SEIZING UP AGAIN!

FIGHT IT!!

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME!

THERE IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST MY TELEKINETIC MIGHT, WOMAN!

I HAVE BYPASSED YOUR MINDS AND MENTALLY TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES.

SO THAT YOU WILL BE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT TRANSPIRES!

THE POISON HAS PROVEN INADEQUATE. IT APPEARS X'S PHYSICAL STAMINA IS NEARLY EQUAL TO MY OWN!

AN ALTERNATE COURSE OF ACTION MUST BE IMMEDIATELY PUT INTO MOTION!

AND BACK WHERE I LEFT PIP WITH THE ETERNITY/ INFINITY ENTITY...

SO WHEN I CAME TO, I DISCOVERED SHE ONLY HAD THREE OR FOUR TEETH IN HER ENTIRE FAMILY.

PRETTY SCARY, huh?

PIP!

THANOS?!

WHERE ARE YOU?

I AM SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL COMMUNICATION IMPLANT.

INSIDE MY HEAD?!

HOW'D THIS THING GET INTO MY NOGGIN?

I PLACED IT THERE SOME YEARS BACK.

HOW COME I DON'T REMEMBER THIS?

WAS I CONSCIOUS WHEN YOU DID IT?

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW TOO MANY DETAILS.

NOW BE QUIET. I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.

MEANWHILE, I WAS RELIVING MY OWN PAST AND TRYING TO DIGEST A MASSIVE DOSE OF STARTLING COSMIC REVELATIONS.

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU ANCHOR ALL REALITY...

...KEEP IT FROM TUMBLING INTO AN ASTRAL ABYSS?

AND THAT I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO AID YOU IN THIS TASK?

YES, FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES, EVEN BEFORE DINOSAURS WALKED YOUR EARTH, THERE HAS BEEN ONE WHOSE TASK IT IS TO SECURE ACTUALITY'S PROPER PLACE WITHIN THE COSMIC VORTEX.

AROUND ME REST MY PREDECESSORS, SELECTED FROM VARIOUS RACES THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, IT IS A THANKLESS AND LONELY LABOR, BUT ONE WE SHOULDER PROUDLY SO THAT ALL OTHERS MAY LIVE.

I HAVE SERVED SINCE THE DAWN OF WHAT YOU WOULD CALL THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

BUT SOON I MUST TURN MY DUTIES OVER TO ANOTHER.

YOU'RE DYING?

AS DO ALL BEINGS.

BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS AMISS.

TRAGICALLY SO.

UNTIL NOW THE SUCCESSION OF EACH REALITY ANCHOR HAS TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

NORMALLY, IT IS TIMED SO THAT THE REPLACEMENT HAS THE CHANCE TO REACH MATURITY BEFORE BEING CALLED TO DUTY.

UNFORTUNATELY, A RECENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TIME-KEEPERS, IMMORTUS, KANG, AND YOUR AVENGERS HAS CREATED AN UNDETECTED YET SERIOUS RIFT IN THE TIME FLOW.

MY RELIEF IS ONLY NOW ENTERING THE REALM OF LIFE.

SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PREPARE HERSELF THROUGH THE USUAL METHODS.

BUT I CAN INDIRECTLY DISPATCH A TUTORIAL, WHICH WILL READY HER.

YOUR SOUL GEM COULD CARRY THIS GIFT TO THE NEWBORN ATLEZA LANGUNN.

THEN, AFTER WHAT YOU CALL SIX MONTHS, SHE WOULD EASILY FIND HER WAY HERE AND TO HER DESTINY.

WILL YOU AID ME IN THIS ESSENTIAL ENDEAVOR?

OF COURSE.

THEN BRACE YOURSELF, ADAM WARLOCK.

FOR THIS WILL PROVE TO BE A REVELATORY EXPERIENCE AND PROBABLY...

...QUITE PAINFUL!

PAINFUL? IT WAS DEVASTATING!

THE KNOWLEDGE I NOW CARRIED WITHIN THE SOUL GEM BECAME A PART OF ME.

IT WAS FAR MORE THAN MY MIND COULD COMPREHEND.

SOUL SHATTERING.

AND TWO YEARS OF MY LIFE DISAPPEARED AMIDST THE WRECKAGE.

AND WHILE I WAS LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS, DR. STRANGE NOTED MOONDRAGON WAS REGAINING HERS.

STRANGE..?

I CANNOT SPARE THE TIME FOR FURTHER USELESS BATTLE.

SO STAND DOWN OR I WILL BE FORCED TO--

BATTLE?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, BALDY...

PIP?!

WHO ELSE?

THIS JOURNEY HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A SERIES OF UNEXPLAINABLE EVENTS.

BUT I'VE NO TIME TO SPECULATE ON THIS LATEST MYSTERY.

MY SORCEROUS SENSES WARN THAT I MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTINUE ALONG THE MYSTICAL ENERGY TRAIL I WAS FOLLOWING.

AND IN DOING SO PERHAPS I WILL LEARN THE IDENTITY OF--

--THE TWO BEINGS THAT PASSED THIS WAY WHILE I WAS REGAINING MY WITS.

TWO YEARS LATER?

YES. WELCOME BACK TO THE PRESENT.

A GENTLER ARRIVAL THAN MY DEPARTURE.

THE LEAST I COULD DO AFTER I UNDERESTIMATED THE EFFECT SUCH COSMIC REVELATIONS WOULD HAVE ON EVEN ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.

YOU'D BETTER FILL ME IN COM-PLETELY.

ONCE I REALIZED THAT I HAD LOST YOU TO INSANITY, I DESPERATELY SCRAMBLED FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SALVATION.

DESPITE MY IMPORTANCE IN THIS REALITY I CAN EXERT VERY LITTLE CONTROL OVER IT.

I AM ONLY ABLE TO COMMUNICATE OPENLY WITH YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR UNIQUE NATURE.

SO AN INDIRECT METHOD HAD TO BE EMPLOYED TO GAIN MY END.

I SCOURED YOUR UNIVERSE FOR THE PROPER EXISTING ARRANGEMENT.

I FINALLY SETTLED ON A SITUATION AT THE SANCTUARY OF YOUR SOMETIME-ALLY, THANOS OF TITAN.

HE HAD RECENTLY ABANDONED THIS RATHER BIZARRE PROJECT INVOLVING HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED CLONES OF HIMSELF.

BEING AWARE OF HIS DEEP-ROOTED NIHILISTIC TENDENCIES, I ADDED A SINGLE LINE TO THE DUPLICATES' DATA STREAM.

"ADAM WARLOCK IS THE KEY TO OBLIVION."

NEXT I NEARLY DEPLETED MY RESERVES OF STRENGTH BY DIRECTING A METEORITE TO A PRECISE LOCATION NEAR THE TITAN'S HIDEAWAY.

THIS KNOCKED OUT THE INSTALLATION'S DEFENSE SYSTEM.

IT WAS ALSO SUPPOSED TO ACTIVATE THE SINGLE DOPPEL-GANGER KNOWN AS ARMOUR.

BUT, TO MY HORROR, FOUR OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND DEADLY OF THE CLONES WERE ALSO BROUGHT TO LIFE INADVERTENTLY.

THAT IS WHEN MY PLAN SPUN COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.

THE FIVE REPLICANTS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PLOTTING COSMIC OBLIVION.

SINCE THEN, THEIR EVERY MOVE HAS BROUGHT UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION CLOSER TO REALITY.

HOW CAN THEY BE STOPPED?

SALVATION STILL LIES WITHIN THE EARTH CHILD, ATLEZA.

YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO YOUR UNIVERSE AND PASS ON THE TUTORIAL THAT YET RESIDES WITHIN YOUR SOUL GEM.

AND THEN?

BRING ATLEZA BACK HERE TO TAKE UP HER DUTIES, FOR THE TIME LEFT TO ME CAN BE COUNTED IN MINUTES.

MAKE THAT SECONDS!

WARRIOR, MY MYSTIC SENSES TELL ME THIS CREATURE'S DEATH WILL GRANT US THE TREASURE WE SEEK.

THEN IT MUST DIE!

I INSTANTLY SENSED I COULD EASILY ESCAPE THE TWO THANOS REPLICANTS.

BUT IF I DID SO...

...ATLEZ WOULD BE HELPLESS AGAINST THEM.

HE WOULDN'T LAST FIVE SECONDS.

AND SO WOULD END ALL REALITY.

SO I GIRDED MYSELF FOR BATTLE WITH THE PSEUDO-TITANS.

A FIGHT I KNEW I COULD NOT WIN.

EVERY-THING IN MY CHEST TIGHTEN-ING!

IT IS DEATH'S SWEET EMBRACE YOU FEEL.

I CALL HER TO YOU!

THE PAIN--!

TELEKINETICALLY I URGE YOUR VERY MOLECULAR STRUCTURE TO STRIVE FOR DETONATION!

THE PRESSURE BUILDS!

CRITICAL MASS IS ACHIEVED!

AND MOST CHERISHED OBLIVION IS GRANTED TO YOU!

I SHALL SOON, MY ENEMIES, JOIN YOU IN THIS FINAL JOURNEY!

NOW TO--

WHAT?

MY NIHILISTS!

THE HOUSE!

IT TOO FADES AWAY!

THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED!

SOMEHOW MAGE AND WARRIOR HAVE BROUGHT ON THE ULTIMATE DOOMSDAY!

OBLIVION IS UPON US!

MY PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED!

THE END IS HERE!!

GENTLE NOTHINGNESS CLAIMS ME!!

NO MORE STRIFE OR TROUBLE!

OBLIVION!!

"GROZIT! WHAT HAPPENED?!"

THE PUMPKIN-HEADED THANOS IS DEAD!

AND CHECK OUT THAT SMILE ON HIS FACE!

HOW?

NOT HOW.

WHO?

MOONDRAGON! YOU--

YES--I SURREPTITIOUSLY SEIZED PSYCHIC CONTROL AND STIMULATED X'S FANTASY CENTERS.

X'S DEEPEST DESIRE WAS TO WITNESS THE END OF ALL REALITY.

I GRANTED HIM HIS DEATH WISH IN AN ILLUSIONARY FASHION.

SO, HIS OWN MIND, IN EFFECT, IS WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT HIS DEMISE.

PRETTY COLD, LADY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN WHAT HE HAD IN STORE FOR YOU!

BOOM!

THE SITUATION WITHIN EARTH'S NIL SPHERE APPEARS TO BE STABLE.

UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE NO WAY OF CHECKING ON WARLOCK'S STATUS.

I MUST ASSUME THAT HE TOO WILL TRIUMPH...

...AND CONTINUE WITH MY OWN PREPARATIONS AGAINST THE OMEGA'S INEVITABLE RETURN.

THANOS'S CONFIDENCE IN MY SURVIVING FAR EXCEEDED MY OWN.

I COULD HAVE HANDLED EITHER OF THEM INDIVID-UALLY.

THE SOUL GEM'S ENERGIES EASILY COUNTERED THE MAGE'S INCANTA-TIONS.

AND MY OWN SPEED AND FIGHTING SKILLS WOULD'VE EVENTUALLY WON OVER WARRIOR'S SUPERIOR PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

BUT TOGETHER, THEY WERE OVER-WHELMING.

BLAST HIM!!

KILL HIM!!

AND THEY WOULD HAVE...

...IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE TIMELY INTERVENTION OF A CERTAIN SORCERER SUPREME.

STRANGE!

THANOS DOPPEL-GANGERS? INTERESTING.

WARRIOR!

TO MY SIDE!

SORRY, HE'S BUSY GETTING HIS NECK BROKEN.

I FIGURED WARRIOR COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE MORE THAN TWO OR THREE TIMES AS STRONG AS THE ORIGINAL THANOS.

I WAS WRONG.

HE WAS EASILY FOUR OR FIVE TIMES AS POWERFUL.

MY STRENGTH WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS.

AND HE WAS RELENTLESS.

STAGGERED AS I WAS FROM THE DUAL ASSAULT, WARRIOR HANDILY POUNDED THROUGH MY FEEBLE DEFENSES.

FORTUNATELY, DR. STRANGE HAD LITTLE TROUBLE DISPATCHING HIS ADVERSARY.

BUT HE DIDN'T SUCCEED IN DOING SO QUICKLY ENOUGH TO AVOID...

SO FALL ALL MY ENEMIES!

TRIUMPHANT AM I!!

YOUR DEATH, ANCIENT ONE, IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE END OF ALL!

YOURS WILL BE AN EMPTY VICTORY, WARRIOR.

THE CREED YOU ADHERE TO IS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE.

IN GAINING OBLIVION YOU ACHIEVE NOTHING.

IN NOTHINGNESS THERE IS ONLY AVOIDANCE, NOT TRIUMPH.

YOU SEEK TO CONFUSE ME WITH CLEVER WORDS!

YOU DIE!

I THINK NOT.

THERE IS STILL ONE WHO MIGHT STOP YOUR MADNESS.

WHO?

I WILL.

AND I WILL DEFEAT YOU, WARRIOR, FOR I NOW CALL UPON THE POWER OF THE...

SOUL GEM!

I SHOULD FEAR THIS TRINKET?

WHEN YOU NEVER DARED TO USE IT AGAINST THE ORIGINAL?

BECAUSE I FEARED TAKING THE TITAN'S DARK SPIRIT INTO MY OWN.

BUT NOW THE STAKES ARE SO GREAT I HAVE NO CHOICE!

YOU'RE BLUFFING!!

YOU WOULD BE OVERWHELMED BY THE EVIL WITHIN ME!

PERHAPS.

BUT TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE I WOULD RISK ALL!

DEPART!

I HAVE COME TOO FAR TO TURN BACK NOW!!

DON'T FORCE ME TO STEAL YOUR SOUL, WARRIOR!

NO!

SO BE IT!

DEPART!

I CLEARLY FELT THE ESSENCE OF WARRIOR RIP FROM HIS MIGHTY FRAME AND TRAVEL ALONG THE RIBBON OF ILLUMINATION, SLICING INTO AND BECOMING A PART OF MY VERY BEING.

IN AN INSTANT IT WAS OVER.

AND THE LIGHT BEHIND WARRIOR'S EYES FADED...

FOREVER.

WE WON.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

CAN YOU CONTROL THIS MONSTROSITY WHICH HAS BECOME A FACET OF YOUR SELF?

YES...

NO...

SO MANY VOICES WITHIN... SCREAMING TO BE HEARD...

BUT THIS I DO KNOW...

WARRIOR'S DREAMS OF OBLIVION...

THEY ARE NOW MY DREAMS.

TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL PG

THANOS: INFINITY ABYSS™

6 of 6

STARLIN
MILGROM

MARVEL

> THANOS

> WARLOCK

> GAMORA

> MOONDRAGON

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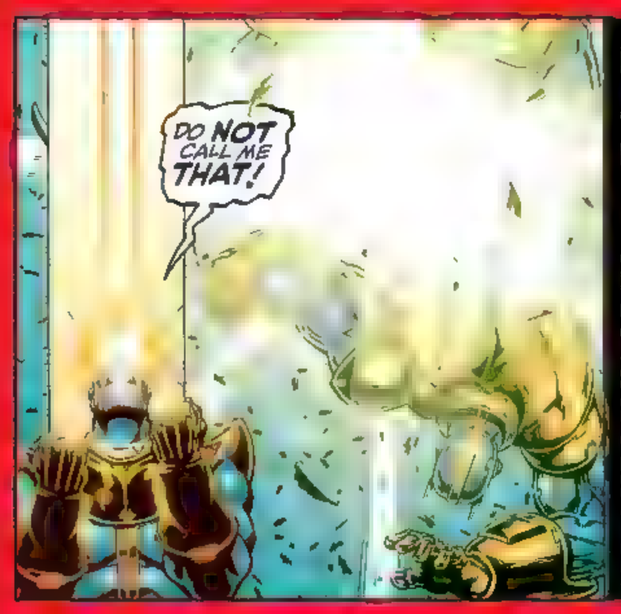
>PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY ABYSS...



Thanos and his one-time ward Gamora have defeated a cadre of evil, nihilist duplicates of the Mad Titan himself. However, in doing so, they've stumbled into a grave chain of events that may lead to total oblivion...

MEANWHILE, I WAS RELIVING MY OWN PAST AND TRYING TO DIGEST A MASSIVE DOSE OF STARTLING COSMIC REVELATIONS.
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU ANCHOR ALL REALITY...
.. KEEP IT FROM TUMBLING INTO AN ASTRAL ABYSS?

Adam Warlock learned that the mysterious Atlez's days of anchoring reality are over, and that a replacement guardian must be retrieved immediately or the universe will perish. Now, Warlock and Dr. Strange, Earth's sorcerer supreme, must retrieve Atlez's replacement, a young Earth girl named Atleza Langunn.

Meanwhile, Captain Marvel and Spider-Man have been drawn to Atleza's seemingly normal family, only to have a powerful reality wave sweep over them--leaving them to defend the Langunns with no help in sight.

Omega, the last and most powerful of the Thanos doppelgangers, has been summoned to destroy the heroes and Atleza. They are unaware of and quite possibly powerless to stop this creature intent on hurtling the cosmos into the Infinity Abyss...

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REWARDS & PUNISHMENT

WARLOCK! WHAT BEDEVILS YOU?!

OBLIVION!

GIVE IT TO ME!!

I WILL NOT BE DENIED!

I...

HUH?

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TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

BILL JEMAS PRESIDENT

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I WILL BE, DR. STRANGE.

HAVING SOME TROUBLE INTEGRATING WARRIOR'S SPIRIT INTO THE SOCIETY OF THE SOUL GEM.

BUT I CAN FEEL HIS NIHILISTIC PASSIONS SLOWLY MERGING WITH MY OWN SUICIDAL TENDENCIES.

HASTEN THE PROCESS IN ANY MANNER YOU CAN, ADAM WARLOCK!

ATLEZ?

MY TIME DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

SO SOON?

IF ATLEZA DOES NOT RELIEVE ME, BEFORE DEATH LAYS ITS CLAIM, OUR UNIVERSE PLUNGES INTO THE VOID.

THEN LET IT! WHY SHOULD I CARE?!

BRING ON OBLIVION!

THE MADNESS IS UPON HIM AGAIN!

ONLY MOMENTARILY. ADAM WILL FIGHT OFF THE DARK HAUNTINGS.

FOR ALL THERE IS DEPENDS ON HIM.

I'LL TRY...

I WILL!

STRANGE, YOU SHALL REMAIN WITH ATLEZ.

USE YOUR MYSTICAL AND MEDICAL SKILLS TO KEEP HIM ALIVE.

WHILE YOU...?

GAIN THE UNIVERSE SALVATION IN THE FORM OF A SMALL CHILD.

ATLEZ, I WOULD APPRECIATE A BETTER EXPLANATION.

"FORGIVE YOUR FRIEND, STRANGE, HIS SOUL IS IN DIRE CONFLICT."

AND I SENSE YOU ARE *TRULY DYING* SO I WILL NOT PRESS.

I CANNOT KEEP YOU FROM EVENTUALLY *PASSING OVER.*

BUT THE LIGHT FROM THE *EYE OF AGAMOTTO* WILL AID YOU IN *DELAYING* THE *INEVITABLE.*

MEANWHILE, I HURRIED FROM THE *COSMIC VORTEX* AND RE-TURNED TO WHERE...

...I HAD LEFT A *CERTAIN TROLL* WITH THE MERGED *ETERNITY/ INFINITY ENTITY.*

PIP! WE MUST BE *OFF!*

I *KNOW,* ALREADY GOT THE *COORDI-NATES.*

ANY CHANCE OF STOPPING OFF FOR A QUICK *DRINK* ?

NONE.

AND SO WE HURRIEDLY JOURNEYED TO A **SMALL FARMHOUSE** FLOATING WITHIN A **SPHERE OF NOTHINGNESS** SOMEWHERE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK.

THERE I WOULD FIND **SHE** WHO WAS DESTINED TO **ANCHOR** OUR **REALITY** WITHIN THE **COSMIC VORTEX.**

UNFORTUNATELY, **WARRIOR'S PERSONALITY** WAS STILL REARING ITS RATHER UGLY HEAD.

"IN OTHER WORDS, I WASN'T IN A VERY **DIPLOMATIC MOOD.**"

I HAVE COME FOR THE CHILD **ATLEZA!**

THIS IS GETTING TO BE LIKE **AVENGERS MANSION!**

WHO'S GOING TO SHOW UP NEXT, THE **HULK?**

ADAM?

COME FOR ATLEZA?

EASE UP, BUDDY!

WARLOCK? I THOUGHT HE WAS **DEAD!**

OCCASIONALLY.

HE CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT **RIGHT.**

WHAT DO YOU **WANT** WITH MY **DAUGHTER?**

STAND ASIDE!

NO WAY!

ADAM! REMEM-BER!

ONLY **HUMAN!**

FRAGILE!

THEY **BREAK EASILY!**

I SAID **STAND ASIDE!**

POOR FATHER.

HE JUST **DOESN'T UNDERSTAND!**

HIS SOUL GEM...
HE'S GOING TO...
ADAM! SHE'S JUST A CHILD!
I'M READY.
I KNEW...
...YOU WOULD BE.
KNOWLEDGE!
ADAM!
GROZIT!
WHAT?!
MADNESS!
ATLEZA!
I HAD NO IDEA!
MY BABY!
PRETTY!
DONE.
THE VEILS OF IGNORANCE PART.
THANK YOU, ADAM WARLOCK.
I NOW SEE.
I NOW KNOW.
I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

MY DUTY IS CLEAR!

ALL THE LATENT POWERS WITHIN THE GIRL, THAT MY COSMIC SENSES PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED, ARE NOW COMING TO FULL BLOOM!

REBIRTH.

REALIGN-MENT.

THE ENERGIES RADIATING FROM HER ARE ASTRAL IN SCOPE!

ATLEZA!

WHAT'S IS SHE DOING?

INCREDIBLE!

DIMENSIONAL RIFTS ARE HEALING! SPATIAL ABNOR-MALITIES ARE RIGHTING!

OUTSIDE!

WANT TO TRY THAT IN ENGLISH FOR US NON-COSMIC GIBBER-ISH SPEAK-ERS?

THAT LOOKS LIKE EARTH TO ME!

EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL!

WHICH MEANS...

...TOTE UP ANOTHER ONE IN THE GOOD GUYS' WIN COLUMN!

NOT QUITE...

WARLOCK SPEAKS TRUE.

Thanos!

NO SHOOTING FROM THE HIP, GUYS!

THIS IS THE REAL THING!

AND HE'S ON OUR SIDE!

MOONDRAGON, WE NEED AN IMMEDIATE *GROUP TELEPATHIC LINK-UP.*

GENIS, WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

YOUR PAL *HARVEY'S* RETURNED!

WHY? THE DANGER'S PAST, *ISN'T* IT?

SADLY, NO.

SAY *WHAT?*

HIS NAME'S *RICK.*

YOU'D BETTER *COME CLEAN* WITH THEM, THANOS.

VERY WELL.

THE *FOES* YOU HAVE BEEN COLLECTIVELY FACING ARE *CREATIONS* OF *MINE*, RUN AMOK!

ONE REPLICANT REMAINS. THE MOST *POWERFUL.*

THE *OMEGA* CRAVES ATLEZA'S *DEMISE* AND THE *OBLIVION* THAT WILL FOLLOW.

MORE GIBBER-ISH.

THE OMEGA IS DRIVEN BY AN ALMOST *RELIGIOUS FERVOR.*

NOTHING SHORT OF *DEATH* WILL DETER IT!

I ALONE *CANNOT* STOP IT.

SO YOU'RE *HOPING* WE'LL HELP YOU *KILL OFF* YOUR MISTAKE?

IT IS *YOUR UNIVERSE* ALSO.

JUST HOW *TOUGH* IS THIS OMEGA?

PROBABLY *TWICE* AS POWER-FUL AS *GALACTUS.*

EEEE

GALACTUS'S MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCESS TO HIS *DNA* WERE NOT *SOPHISTICATED* ENOUGH TO DETER *ME.*

MY OPPORTUNITY CAME DURING THE *MAGUS/INFINITY GAUNTLET AFFAIR.*

GRAFTING THIS PRIZE TO MY OWN GENE MATRIX PROVED A *DAUNTING TASK* AND AN *IRRESISTIBLE CHALLENGE.*

BUT IT WAS AN *INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE*... A COSMIC NIGHTMARE NEVER MEANT TO BE ACTIVATED.

OUTSIDE FORCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *MISSTEP* OF ITS *EXISTENCE.*

SOME MISSTEP!

I'VE ENCOUNTERED THE *REAL GALACTUS*...

...AND MY *COSMIC SENSES* SAY THIS CREATURE EASILY *DWARFS* THE *ORIGINAL* IN *POWER.*

INSANITY.

PERHAPS.

WE'RE *DEAD!*

THERE WAS **NO PREAMBLE** TO THE OMEGA'S ASSAULT.

THANOS HADN'T BURDENED HIS FRANKENSTEIN WITH THE **GIFT OF SPEECH.**

WHY COMMUNICATE **VERBALLY** WHEN YOU WIELD SUCH **MIGHT?**

BUT WHEN DEALING WITH THE **MAD TITAN** ONE SHOULD **ALWAYS** EXPECT THE **UNEX-** PECTED.

SURPRISE #1.

A **FORCE-FIELD!** PROTECTING THE **HOUSE** AND **US!**

THIS HAS TO BE **THANOS'S DOING!**

SURPRISE #2.

ACTIVATE TELE-PORTATION PROGRAM Z-734!

WHAT HAS THAT **MANIAC** DONE **NOW?**

WE'VE BEEN **TRANSPORTED OFF EARTH!**

MANIAC?

HEY! I DIDN'T DO THIS!

VERY CLEVER.

BUT WHY?

BECAUSE THE TITAN EXPECTS THE COMING BATTLE TO BE MORE THAN THE EARTH CAN BEAR.

TELEPORTATION.

HAVE TO PUT THAT ON MY LIST OF THINGS I HATE.

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.

GAMORA, HAVE YOUR MISCREANT FRIENDS RETURN TO THIS DWELLING IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS IS NOT MY FAULT!

YOU CAN'T BLAME ME!

GUYS, BACK INTO THE HOUSE, NOW!

THIS IS NOT A REQUEST!

HIDING FROM YOUR OWN CREATION, TITAN?

THE OMEGA BELIEVING ME DEAD MAY PROVE OUR ONLY ADVANTAGE.

THIS DEVICE BLINDS HIS SCANNERS TO MY PRESENCE.

ONLY A COORDINATED EFFORT UNDER MY GUIDANCE MAY GAIN US VICTORY.

CRAZI-NESS!

AS USUAL.

THERE IS NO TIME FOR A DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE.

THE OMEGA WILL SOON SHATTER MY FORCE-FIELD.

MOON-DRAGON, I NEED THAT TELEPATHIC LINK-UP NOW.

ALRIGHT, SPIDER-MAN, YOU'RE THE ONLY NOVICE TO THIS EXPERIENCE.

IT'S A HARMLESS PROCEDURE, SO JUST RELAX...

...AND ENJOY THE RIDE!

HATE THIS!

WHOA!

SUCH UNBELIEVABLE LUNACY!

EVERYONE PRESENT IS NOW FULLY BRIEFED ON OUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES CONCERNING THE CRISIS.

AND ITS CAUSE BEING A CERTAIN ARROGANT, PARANOID MONSTER.

A SELF-SERVING MONSTER WHO DIDN'T TRANSPORT THE UPCOMING BATTLE OFF EARTH TO SPARE IT HARM.

BUT TO AVOID THE RIGHTEOUS RETRIBUTION OF EARTH'S SUPER HEROES...

...IF THINGS SHOULD GO WRONG...

I'LL GRANT YOU THANOS IS NO SAINT.

BUT YOU ALL MUST REALIZE HE'S OUR BEST BET FOR SURVIVAL.

SO STOW THE RECRIMI-NATIONS.

I MAY NOT BE ONE OF YOU COSMIC TYPES...

GAMORA'S CORRECT.

WE MUST FOLLOW THIS DEVIL-WE-KNOW AGAINST A FAR MORE IMMEDIATE PERIL.

...BUT I RECOGNIZE A HOLE IN A PLAN WHEN I SEE IT!

THANOS'S SCHEME HAS NO PAYOFF!

SPIDEY'S RIGHT!

WHY YOU HOLDING OUT ON US, BIG GUY?

IN CASE ANY OF YOU FALL INTO THE OMEGA'S CLUTCHES.

YOU CANNOT REVEAL WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW.

"BY THE WAY, MY FORCE-FIELD IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO DIS-INTEGRATE BENEATH THE OMEGA'S ONSLAUGHT."

PERHAPS ATLEZA SHOULD BE SPIRITED AWAY FROM HERE.

NO.

SHE HAS SURELY REGISTERED ON THE OMEGA'S SCANNERS.

EVEN OUTSIDE THIS REALITY WOULD PROVE AN INADEQUATE SANCTUARY FROM HIM.

BESIDES, I WILL NEED YOUR POWER IN THE UP-COMING CONFLICT.

I BID YOU FAREWELL, MY PARENTS.

I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME LIFE.

FARE-WELL?

WHAT?!

LISTEN, YOUNG LADY, WE'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE WITH-OUT YOU!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S--

SORRY, FOLKS...

TIME TO GO.

No!

GOOD-BYE, MOMMY.

'BYE, DADDY.

MARVEL, SPIDER-MAN, YOU WILL NEED THESE COMMUNICATORS.

PLACE THEM BEHIND YOUR EARS.

THE LITTLE GIRL?

ADAM, I THINK IT'S A MISTAKE SENDING ME TO RELIEVE DR. STRANGE.

LEAVE HER BE.

I SUSPECT THANOS HAS DETERMINED THE MYSTIC'S MIGHT WILL BE NEEDED AGAINST THE OMEGA.

MORE SO THAN MY PSYCHIC SKILLS?

DIDN'T STRANGE JUST BEST YOU IN COMBAT?

UNFAIRLY! I WAS UNDER THE MENTAL DOMINATION OF X.!

PERHAPS. BUT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

YOU'RE ORDERING ME FROM THIS BATTLE?

I'M NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE *INFINITY WATCH*, TO BE BULLIED BY THE LIKES OF *YOU!*

THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I MEANT.

THEN WHAT?

I'LL EXPLAIN IN ABOUT *TEN SECONDS.*

HEY!

HECK OF A WAY TO TREAT A LADY.

YOU'RE *WALKING* ON THE *WALLS* AGAIN, SPIDEY.

NOT A GOOD SIGN.

WHAT'S *BOTHERING* YOU?

HEL-LOOO!

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, WE JUST *JOINED FORCES* WITH ONE OF THE *WORST* OF THE *BAD GUYS!*

TROUBLED BY THE OL' *WHITE HAT/ BLACK HAT THING*, HUH?

I'VE BEEN THERE.

WITH *THANOS*, IN FACT.

AND I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO *SURVIVAL...*

...SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T AFFORD THE *LUXURY* OF *CHOICE.*

AGAINST *OBLIVION* I SIDE *WITH* THE TITAN.

AND IF YOU HAVE *ANY SENSE*, SO WILL *YOU.*

WE'RE *BACK* WITH *MAGE* IN TOW.

HAS STRANGE BEEN *BRIEFED?*

MOONDRAGON *RELUCTANTLY* FILLED HIM IN *TELEPATHICALLY.*

VERY WELL...

LET THE BATTLE BEGIN.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE WORD **BATTLE** THAT ROUSED **WARRIOR'S SPIRIT** SO INTENSELY.

THE NEXT MOMENT MY **COMPANIONS** WERE NO LONGER SURROUNDING ME.

I HEARD **NOTHING** BUT **DESIRE.**

I LEFT THE FARMHOUSE AS IF IN A **DREAM.**

NUMB TO **REALITY.**

OVERWHELMED BY **PASSIONS** NOT MY OWN.

TRUE, MY **OWN EXISTENCE** HAS BEEN RATHER **TUMULTUOUS.**

MANY TIMES I HAVE DESIRED AN **ESCAPE** FROM THE STRIFE AND SEEMING INSANITY OF **LIFE.**

SUICIDE I FLIRTED WITH BUT **NEVER** DID I EVEN REMOTELY CONSIDER THE **PHILOSOPHY** OF **UNIVERSAL OBLIVION.**

TO ME, LIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING YOU **CHERISHED** AND SOMEHOW **MANAGED**, NOT DROWNED IN THE **FALSE PROMISES** OF **NIHILISM.**

BUT NOW THE BECKONING VOID SEEMS IRRESISTIBLE.

THE TENETS OF NIHILISM IRREFUTABLE.

WARLOCK, WHY DO YOU HESITATE?

INTO THE FRAY!

CAN'T.

WON'T.

SEE THE TRUTH NOW.

NIHILISM!

THAT IS WARRIOR'S SOUL SPEAKING, NOT YOUR OWN!

RESIST IT!!

TOO OVER-POWERING! CAN'T FIGHT IT ANY MORE THAN I COULD YOUR SPIRIT!

WARLOCK, YOU ARE A FOOL.

THERE. THAT SHOULD BUY US SOME TIME.

I'VE PSYCHICALLY TRANSFERRED TO YOU AS MUCH OF MY OWN LIFE FORCE AS I CAN SPARE.

OF COURSE YOUR *UNCONSCIOUSNESS* KEEPS YOU FROM HEARING MY ASSURANCE...

AND YOUR *COSMIC STATUS* PREVENTS ME FROM *COMMUNICATING* WITH YOU *TELE-PATHICALLY.*

SHAME.

ADAM, YOU ARE *DELUDING* YOURSELF INTO *SELF-DESTRUCTION!*

THINK!

WHAT *COPY* HAS THE *POWER* AND *CLARITY* OF THE *ORIGINAL?*

FOR I HAVE SPENT MY *ENTIRE LIFE* SEEKING TO UNRAVEL THE *COSMIC SECRETS* WHICH ARE YOUR *EVERYDAY EXISTENCE.*

THE *WONDERS* I'M SURE I *COULD* HAVE LEARNED FROM YOU...

...NOW *LOST* TO ME BY *CIR-CUMSTANCE* AND THE *TITAN'S INSANITY.*

NONE!

SO YOUR *STRUGGLE* AGAINST *WARRIOR'S INSANITY* IS ONE YOU CAN *WIN!*

FOR HIS SPIRIT IS BUT *TRANSFERRED DATA* AND NOT *TRUE PERSON-ALITY!*

SO SAD.

SO *UNFAIR.*

MUSTER YOUR *WILL* AND YOU CAN *TRIUMPH* OVER HIS *SHALLOW CONVICTIONS!*

FOR THEY ARE *NOTHING* COMPARED TO MY OWN MUCH *DARKER DEPTHS!*

DARKER?

HOW MUCH DARKER?

TRUST ME, YOU DO NOT WANT TO KNOW!

NOW GO!

YES!

AND UTILIZE WARRIOR'S PURLOINED FIGHTING SPIRIT TO ITS FULLEST!

JUST AS I CALCULATED, YOUR SOUL GEM'S POWER AND UNIQUE NATURE HAVE PROVEN ENOUGH TO SEPARATE THE OMEGA FROM HIS CRAFT.

THAT ALONE IS WHY I COULD NOT ALLOW YOU TO QUIT THIS STRUGGLE.

WHAT NOW?

NOW TREAD CAREFULLY.

EVEN DEPRIVED OF HIS SHIP THE OMEGA POSSESSES INCREDIBLE POWER.

SO I SEE.

BUT HIS REACTION TIME SEEMS... SLOW.

THE OMEGA WAS A WORK-IN-PROGRESS.

HE WAS ACTIVATED BEFORE CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES COULD BE CORRECTED.

WHICH SHOULD WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

DO NOT COUNT OVERLY MUCH ON THIS HANDICAP.

REACTION RETARDATION DOES LITTLE TO DIMINISH THE OMEGA'S THREAT.

AS YOU PRESENTLY SEE, HE REMAINS QUITE CAPABLE OF BROADCASTING A SOLID WALL OF FORCE!

FLOW WITH IT! RESIST AND YOU WILL SURELY PERISH!

RIDE IT OUT AND YOU MAY SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE.

MAY SURVIVE?

LORDY, SPIDEY, WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR-SELF INTO?

THE UNIVERSE IS GOING DOWN THE DRAIN AND YOU'RE...

TURNING A DEAD TREE INTO A GIANT SLINGSHOT!

PIP!

REPORT!

ON SIGHT WITH THE PACKAGE.

THEN DELIVER IT!

NORMALLY I ONLY USE MY OWN ORDNANCE.

BUT I GUESS I CAN MAKE AN EXCEP-TION IN THIS CASE!

THE OMEGA HAS BECOME AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE.

DEPART IMMEDI-ATELY!

"INITIAL OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED!

"THE OMEGA'S CRAFT HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE EQUATION.

"HE IS NOW LIMITED TO ONLY WHAT HIS BASIC SENSES CAN REGISTER."

GAMORA, YOU AND THE CHILD SHOULD IMMEDIATELY JOIN SPIDER-MAN AT HIS POST.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I PLAN TO RENEW AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

OMEGA!

HEAR AND HEED THE WORDS OF YOUR CREATOR!

YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY STAND DOWN FROM YOUR MISSION OR...

...I WILL BE FORCED TO DESTROY YOU!

HIS ANSWER...

SILENCE.

AS EXPECTED.

BUT, AS HOPED, MY ULTIMATUM CAUSES THE OMEGA A MOMENTARY PAUSE.

NOW, EACH DELAY IS GOLDEN.

FOR BLUFF IS MY ONLY WEAPON.

AND EVERY PASSING SECOND AN ALLY.

A BLAST CAPABLE OF LEVELING A MOUNTAIN PROVES ONLY AN ANNOYANCE TO THE OMEGA.

BUT THE ASSAULT SERVES ITS PURPOSE.

STRANGE!

THE SNARE OF AN *INTER-DIMENSIONAL* PORTAL AGAIN OPENS, BUT THIS TIME WITH...

...A LITTLE *SOMETHING EXTRA!*

BUT WILL IT BE ENOUGH?

NO!

OMEGA'S ALREADY BURNING AWAY THE TENTACLES!

AND CHARGING UP ANOTHER FUSILLADE!

MOVE!

THIS BEHEMOTH SEEMS UN-STOPPABLE!

PERHAPS.

PIP!

BOMBS AWAY!!

AND RIGHT ON TARGET!

PRESS ON!

KEEP THE OMEGA OFF BALANCE!

BUT WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO?

I BEGIN TO PERCEIVE THE TITAN'S PLAN!

TRUST HIM A WHILE LONGER!

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

LOOKS TO ME LIKE ALL WE'RE DOING IS TICKING THIS MONSTER OFF!

DIS-TRACTING HIM IS MORE LIKE IT!

EXACTLY!

MISDIRECTION!

BUT HOW CAN A DIVERSION GAIN US VICTORY?

I BELIEVE IT MAY HAVE JUST GAINED CAPTAIN MARVEL HIS SURVIVAL!

THE OMEGA'S CHARGING UP AGAIN!

"STRANGE, RUSH TO MARVEL'S AID.

"WE ARE NOT THE MONSTER'S *INTENDED* TARGET THIS TIME.

"APPARENTLY IT HAS FINALLY PENETRATED THE NIGHTMARE'S *CLOUDED WITS* THAT HE HAS ONLY ONE *TRUE FOE* OF ANY MEASURE ON THIS BATTLEFIELD.

"PRAY THE TITAN HAS THE *STRENGTH* TO ENDURE SUCH A *DEVASTATING* ONSLAUGHT."

"I SURVIVE.

"BUT ONLY WITH THE AID OF THREE PERSONAL FORCE FIELDS AND MY ARMOR.

"THE OMEGA TRULY IS MY GREATEST AND MOST DEADLY CREATION.

"IF I WERE TO ALLOW THIS CONFLICT TO CONTINUE I WOULD NOT LAST ANOTHER TWO MINUTES.

"BUT FORTUNATELY, THANOS'S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON IS HIS MIND.

"IT IS ENTIRELY IN THE PLANNING.

"ALL BATTLES ARE WON OR LOST BEFORE EVER THE FIRST BLOW IS STRUCK.

"EXECUTION IS MERE FORMALITY."

SPIDER-MAN!!

ON MY WAY!!

5...

4...

3...

2...

1!

AND JUST AS THANOS PREDICTED...

BLAST OFF!

...THE OMEGA'S NOT REACTING TO ME AS ANY KIND OF THREAT.

HOW HUMILI-ATING!

HE JUST DOESN'T SEE ANY DANGER IN A LOW-TECH ATTACK LIKE...

...ME EMPTYING MY WEB-SHOOTERS INTO HIS FACE!

BIG MISTAKE, HIGH-POCKETS.

GOTCHA!

AND NOW?

"AND NOW WE EXIT THE BATTLEFIELD!"

DEPARTING.

WE'RE RUNNING AWAY?

RUNNING AWAY IS DIS-ORDERLY.

DEPARTING IS STRATEGIC.

"IT IS VITAL THAT WHEN OMEGA REGAINS HIS VISION, HE DISCOVERS HE IS...

"...ALONE."

BACK HERE?

THEN THAT WHOLE OFF-WORLD SONG AND DANCE WAS A WASTE?

HOW LONG BEFORE THAT HORROR RETURNS TO EARTH?

THE OMEGA WON'T BE LEAVING THAT UNINHABITED WORLD, FOR ITS MAJOR MASS CONSISTS OF...

...VERY UNSTABLE AND HIGHLY FISSIONABLE MATTER.

"OUR SONG AND DANCE AND THE DESTROYING OF OMEGA'S CRAFT KEPT HIM FROM REALIZING THE PLANET WAS BEING SURROUNDED BY MY ARMADA OF REMOTE-CONTROLLED BATTLESHIPS.

"EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE FLEET IS DIRECTING ITS ENTIRE ARSENAL AT THE WORLD, SPARKING A MASSIVE CHAIN REACTION WITHIN ITS DEPTHS.

"IF THE OMEGA STILL HAD HIS SHIP IT WOULD CONVERT THIS PLANET'S FIERY DEMISE INTO NOURISHMENT.

"WITHOUT IT, I FEAR MY CREATION IS DESTINED TO SUFFER A TERMINAL CASE OF BITING OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW."

WARLOCK, I BELIEVE THERE IS STILL SOME NEED FOR HASTE IN DELIVERING ATLEZA.

OF COURSE, I'LL...

NOT WITHOUT ME, YOU WON'T!

SOMEONE HAS TO BE WITH ATLEZA WHILE SHE ADJUSTS TO HER NEW SITUATION.

AND ADAM DOESN'T LOOK UP TO THE TASK.

I AGREE.

BESIDES, I BELIEVE YOU AND I HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.

MOONDRAGON, ATLEZ?

DIED AS YOU WERE MATERIAL-IZING.

HE NEVER REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.

NO LAST WORDS.

SUCH A SHAME.

THE CRISIS IS PAST. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

I CAN HANDLE MATTERS FROM HERE ON.

DIS-MISSED ARE WE?

AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING, THANOS?

LIKE HOW THE UNIVERSE ALMOST GOT TRASHED BECAUSE OF YOU!

A SITUATION I RECTIFIED.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

IS IT AN APOLOGY YOU SEEK?

THAT WOULDN'T HURT FOR STARTERS.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE LANGUNNS?

I BELIEVE THEY HAVE JUST RETURNED.

BACK FROM SUNNY HAWAII!

WHAT?

OUR HOUSE!!

PATIO!

OUR TREE!

WHERE?

SOMEWHERE IN THE HERCULEAN GALAXY...

...IN LITTLE, TINY PIECES...

EVERY-THING WE'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR...

...GONE.

MY POINT EXACTLY!

YOU'VE RUINED THESE PEOPLE'S LIVES AND NOW PLAN TO MOVE ON WITHOUT A CARE!

IF I COULD MAKE YOU PAY FOR ALL THE MISERY YOU'VE CAUSED OVER THE YEARS...

ALLOW ME TO SAVE YOU THE EMBARRASSMENT OF TRYING.

HE'S GETTING AWAY!

NO!

WHAT?!

OUR HOUSE, PATIO, EVERY-THING BACK JUST AS IT WAS!

EVEN THE TREE!

HE MUST HAVE HAD THIS IN MIND ALL ALONG.

LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM, YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO 'OL' PURPLE PUSS.

THE GUY'S REALLY GOT CLASS.

IF NO MORALS.

EVEN FIXED THE CRACKED BEDROOM WINDOW!

AND SO, WITH *DISASTER* AT LEAST PRESENTLY AVERTED, THE UNIVERSE *RETURNS* TO ITS *NORMAL* *RHYTHM*.

ALL INVOLVED *RESUME* THEIR *LIVES*, DIGESTING AND ADJUSTING TO *SURVIVAL*.

"*SOME* WILL STRUGGLE WITH *LOSS* AND *CONFUSION*.

"*NO* SIMPLE TASK.

"WHILE OTHERS CARRY *LESS* WEIGHT.

"THERE WILL BE CHERISHED *REUNIONS*.

"*ONE* TENDER...

"ANOTHER A BIT MORE *ACRIMONIOUS*.

"EXPLANATIONS WILL NOT BE *EASY*.

"BUT THEY WILL BE MADE, AND EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED.

"ONE WILL RETURN TO HER SEARCH FOR *UNDERSTAND-ING* AND *TRUTH*.

"WHILE ANOTHER...

... SEEING THANOS WAS SO *HELPFUL*, I HAD TO *LET* HIM *ESCAPE*...

AND THAT'S HOW I *SAVED* THE *UNIVERSE*!

"AND..."

GONE *EIGHTEEN* *HOURS* AND HE DOESN'T HAVE A *CLUE* WHAT HAPPENED.

MAYBE WE *OUGHT* TO *TELL* HIM.

THAT'LL ONLY GET HIM PULLING OUT HIS LI'L *DRUG-TESTING* *CUPS* AGAIN.

FORGET IT.

AND GAMORA AND I?

WELL, WE HAVE SORT OF SET UP HOUSE IN THE *HEART OF DARKNESS* WHILE ATLEZA *LEARNS* AND *GROWS*.

"A NEW SARCOPHAGUS NOW RESTS ON THE EDGE OF THE PLAZA.

"I WILL ALWAYS WARMLY REMEMBER *ATLEZ*.

"AS I WILL THESE *JOY-FILLED DAYS*.

"LIKE ATLEZA I AM *LEARNING*, MY HORIZONS *WIDENING*.

"IN *THIS LIFE* I SHALL NOT REPEAT *PAST ERRORS*.

"FROM GAMORA I AM DISCOVERING THAT THERE IS *MORE* TO LIFE THAN *ACTION* AND *ADVENTURE*, STRIFE AND CONFLICT.

"I NEVER REALIZED THAT MERE *WORDS* OR A *TOUCH* COULD PROVE TO BE SUCH SUBTLE *TREASURES*.

"KEYS TO UNIMAGINED HAPPINESS.

"BUT THESE ARE *REVELATIONS* I FEAR THANOS WILL *NEVER APPRECIATE.*

"*DARKER MOTIVES* SPUR ON THE TITAN.

"FOR HIM, *RE-BUILDING* HIS *RESOURCES* IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

"WHEN MY *MIND* WAS *LINKED* WITH HIS I FELT JUST HOW *CLOSE* THANOS IS TO GAINING THAT NEW *SECRET PRIZE* HE CRAVES.

"SO THE HUNT *RESUMES*, AND *EBON PASSIONS* BURN.

"YES, I BELIEVE THE TITAN WILL *SOON* UNEARTH HIS LATEST *SUBSTITUTE* FOR *HAPPINESS* AND *CONTENTMENT.*

"AND ONCE AGAIN HE WILL FIND IT *UNFULFILLING* AND *WANTING.*

"ON THAT DAY, LET THE *UNIVERSE TREMBLE.*

"FOR THEN *SOMEONE* WILL SURELY HAVE TO *PAY* FOR THAT *BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT.*"

END

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